

The end of a gay publishing era
Winston Leyland, who brought gay
classics to the masses, closes up shop.
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A life brutally cut short
Friends, colleagues remember
murdered lesbian D.C. official.
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Lesbian spy spoof
Angela Robinson's
action caper 'D.E.B.S.'
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

AIDS Office fights audit results

by Matthew S. Bajko

The city's AIDS Office is disputing audit results of two programs funded by Ryan White CARE Act dollars in which federal auditors have recommended as much as \$340,000 be returned to the Department of Health and Human Services.

The federal department's Office of Inspector General conducted the audits of two contracts from the 2001 fiscal year between April 2003 and last August. The audits came at the bequest of the Senate's finance committee, which asked for audits nationwide to ensure Ryan White CARE Act monies were being properly spent.

An audit of the AIDS Offices' \$1.5 million contract with Baker Places to provide short-term and emergency housing to low-income people living with HIV or AIDS found that the agency had inappropriately claimed costs of \$216,461. Federal auditors have also questioned another \$80,776 claimed for housing services that may not have met the intent of the CARE Act.

The second audit found that the AIDS Office had reimbursed Continuum HIV Day Services \$42,625 in excess of allowable program costs under a contract to provide integrative services to people living with HIV or AIDS.

In both instances, the AIDS Office is disputing the inspector general's findings and has raised concerns about the legality of the audits in the first place. In their written response to the audits, health department officials claim they received conflicting information regarding the "intent, purpose, and objective" of the audits of both agency's contracts. They claim at first they were informed that the visits were to "merely conduct a survey... and not an audit" and that the information provided to the inspectors "would only be used to select a local contractor to be audited."

Because local health officials, agency staff, or the local inspectors "were not clear on the intent of the audit," it "led to the remarks of the initial interviews as stated by the staff to be taken out of context." Thus, health department officials claim in their response that the audits contain "inconsistent statements regarding contractual relationships, fiscal

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Still out against the war!

Queer activists joined with thousands of others and marched through San Francisco on Saturday, March 19 to protest the second anniversary of President Bush's decision to invade Iraq. From left, Jerry the Faerie helps John Burnside (the widower of gay rights pioneer Harry Hay) lead the LGBT contingent with Tommi Avicolli Mecca.

Jane Philomen Cleland

Hormel Center set to unveil trove of gay treasures

by Matthew S. Bajko

The excitement and awe of Randy Shilt's seeing the late San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk — the first openly gay man to win election to public office in California — sworn into office is still palpable 27 years after he described that day in January 1978 in his diary.

"What a day, up at 7:30, rush to KQED newsroom, go to Castro Street to film city's first gay supervisor walking to swearing in," wrote Shilt, who covered the AIDS epidemic for the *San Francisco Chronicle* and later wrote the book *And the Band Played On*,

which chronicled the early days of the epidemic.

For nearly 14 years Shilt's diary and other archival materials from his life, amounting to 150 cubic feet at the time it was donated to the public library in 1991, have been carefully stored and preserved by library archivists. In 1996, after the opening of the library's James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center, the nation's first gay and lesbian archive center, Shilt's papers became part of the Hormel collection.

Yet due to its overwhelming size, the collection remained mostly unavailable to the public. While researchers who specifically re-

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Tim Wilson, processing archivist, with the pulp fiction collection in the Hormel Center Archive.

New leader for SFAF

by Zak Szymanski

After a nine-month national search, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation has announced its new executive director — and he is already familiar with the city's AIDS programs.

Mark Cloutier, the executive director of the Tenderloin-based HIV/AIDS services organization Continuum, will take over the top position at SFAF on June 1 at an annual salary of \$170,000. He replaces Pat Christen, who resigned last July after 15 years at the helm of the city's largest AIDS service organization. This is no ordinary hire, Cloutier and SFAF search team members emphasized at a meeting with the *Bay Area Reporter* on Tuesday, March 22. For starters, SFAF's initial priority put forth by search team chair and board member Lonnie Payne was to find a new executive director with longevity, and Cloutier affirmed that he plans to be with the organization for years.



SFAF board member Lonnie Payne

Rick Gerhardt

other important criteria as well — understanding the agency's vision, possessing solid knowledge of the pandemic, having a sensitivity to the various communities impacted by HIV/AIDS, and demonstrating a history of managing an organization from a variety of aspects.

Cloutier also has what SFAF policy director Fred Dillon called "the perfect combination" of direct service work experience and policy acumen, two essential factors in SFAF's work that are directly related to each other.

"It's the direct services," said SFAF board chair Mark McCormick, "that really give us credibility at policy discussions."

In addition to his nonprofit background, Cloutier also has over 20 years experience in public policy and legislative work, including as a former aide to Senator Barbara Boxer when she was in the House of Representatives. Cloutier, who is openly gay, holds a master's degree in public policy and public health from the University of California, Berkeley.

At Continuum, Cloutier oversees a budget of \$3.5 million, a staff of 41 people, and the

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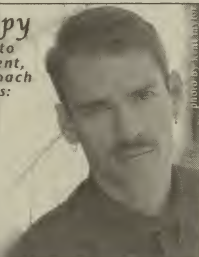
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New Leaf moves down Market Street

by Zak Szymanski

Beginning Tuesday, March 29, clients and program participants of New Leaf: Services for Our Community can find everything under one roof. After 30 years of providing comprehensive mental health, substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, and social support counseling and services at various locations, New Leaf is moving to Fox Plaza, at 103 Hayes Street, near Market and 9th.

The move is primarily motivated by efficiency, said New Leaf Executive Director Joseph Neisen.

"We are entering our fourth decade. And we have been in anywhere from three to six buildings over those last 30 years," said Neisen. "We can finally consolidate all of our client services into one location and all of our staff offices into one location. From a client perspective, the community will understand that there's one central location and not multiple buildings. And from a staff perspective, having everyone in the same building will provide more cohesiveness."



New Leaf's Joe Neisen

A better rental market didn't hurt either, allowing the organization to ensure its future for several years.

"One of the benefits of the downturn of the economy is that we were able to lock in some really affordable rental rates for the next decade," said Neisen.

Just blocks from where New Leaf's offices most recently have been located, New Leaf's new

building is easily accessible by BART and Muni and within walking distance to the LGBT Community Center, the Castro, South of Market, and downtown.

"We're thrilled," said Neisen.

New Leaf will be closed for a long weekend but all services are expected to be up and running by Tuesday. The organization also plans to host a spring gala fundraiser on Tuesday, April 12 at Teatro Zinzanni at the Embarcadero from 6 to 9:30 p.m. The event will feature emcee Leslie Jordan; a cocktail and buffet reception, special guests Honey Labrador and Robbie Laughlin of Bravo's *Queer Eye for the Straight Girl*; and a silent auction. Tickets start at \$150.

All of New Leaf's phone numbers and e-mail contacts will remain the same after the move. The agency can be reached at (415) 626-7000 or at www.newleafservices.org.

Correction

In Business Briefs column on March 3 ["New, hip hotel to open"], under the Transitions heading, it was incorrectly reported that It's Delectable cafe was closing. The cafe is still going strong as the owner and customers have informed us. We regret the error.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

LGBT groups host Easter events

by Zak Szymanski

For LGBT Christians and others, the holidays can be a time to celebrate as well as reflect on family, religion, and community. The Bay Area plays host to numerous events this week to appeal to all members of the LGBT community, from the faithful to the festive.

The **Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence** throws its annual Easter picnic at Dolores Park on Sunday, March 27, beginning at 11:30 a.m. and featuring an egg hunt and cake-walk for kids; live entertainment by the Ethel Merman Experience, Trauma Flintstone, Kitten on the Keys, and Polkacide; an Easter Bonnet contest at 1 p.m.; and the infamous Hunky Jesus contest at 3:15. The Sisters of Russian River will also host a party on Friday, March 25 at Club FAB in Guerneville. For more information, visit www.thesisters.org.

Following the picnic, SF Leather Daddy XX Tony Koester will host the sixth annual **Easter Basket Auction** at Daddy's bar, 440 Castro Street. The event benefits the Stop AIDS Project and runs from 4 to 8 p.m.; admission is \$7.

As is tradition, Easter meals will be served by **Tenderloin Tessie's Holiday Dinners** and **Glide Memorial United Methodist Church**, two organizations that are dedicated to pro-

viding food and community to people in need.

Tenderloin Tessie's has been serving holiday dinners to the homeless, elderly, needy, and lonely since 1974. This year's Easter dinner with all the trimmings will be served from 1 to 4 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin Street at Geary. Everyone is welcome. Volunteers are also needed to help set up, prepare and serve the meal, and clean up; call (415) 255-7503 for more information.

Glide is serving an Easter breakfast of scrambled eggs, ham, grits, and biscuits from 7 to 8:30 a.m. on Easter Sunday. Glide will serve Easter dinner from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m., which will feature fried chicken and all the trimmings. All Glide meals are served at 330 Ellis Street and are free to everyone. Financial donations are always welcome. Additionally, volunteers are still needed Sunday, with shifts available from 6 a.m. through 3:30 p.m. Call (415) 674-6000 for more information or visit www.glide.org/Easter-Volunteer.asp.

Easter worship services will be held regularly throughout the area all week. **Glide's** Easter services at 330 Ellis Street include a 6 a.m. Sunrise Celebration, and 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. celebrations, featuring live music.

Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco will host Holy Thursday and Good Friday services at 7 p.m. on March

24 and 25 respectively, and Easter Sunday services at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., and 7 p.m. at 150 Eureka Street between 18th and 19th. The Reverend Dr. G. Penny Nixon will be preaching. MCC-SF also has commissioned seven new pieces of music for the week, all written by MCC members who are musicians.

A new, and as yet unnamed MCC has been formed on the Peninsula for LGBT community members and allies. The church's first service will be Easter Sunday, featuring the Reverend Terri Echelbarger, at 3 p.m. at College Heights Church, 1150 W. Hillsdale Boulevard, in San Mateo. For more information visit www.that-newchurch.org.

Spirit Connection MCC Church in San Jose hosts its Sunday service at 10:30 a.m. The church is located at 65 South 7th Street in downtown San Jose and Easter service will feature the Reverend Vicky Kolakowski. Good Friday services are at noon in St. James Park and at 7:30 p.m. at the church. Visit www.mccsj.org for more information.

In the East Bay, the **New Spirit Community Church**, an affiliation between MCC and the United Church of Christ, will hold a sunrise service at 7 a.m. at Inspiration Point in Tilden Park. Call the church office at (510) 704-7729 for directions. The Easter

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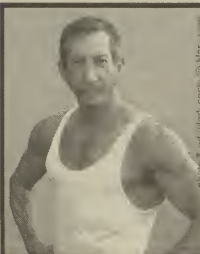
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SF Pride 2005

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B. Organizations

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'Real Bad' photo contest is back

compiled by Cynthia Laird

Grass Roots, Gay Rights West wants photographers to dust off their cameras and enter its contest aimed at capturing the male leather scene in all its sexuality. The winning entry will be featured on posters and other promotional material for GRGR West's 16th annual "Real Bad" party that closes out the Folsom Street Fair in September.

Real Bad is a huge bash, and has become the longest running, most successful event of its kind in the city. Over the years, nearly \$400,000 has been raised for GLBT rights organizations, community services, and HIV and other health-related issues.

For the contest, GRGR West is looking for photos that capture the essence of Real Bad and the street fair, which is one of the largest leather/fetish festivals in the country. Images may include any of the following elements: dark side, fetish, roleplay, fantasy, ambiguity/abstract, masculinity, playfulness, sensuality/sexuality, and levi/leather. Photos must be of men only and may not show full frontal nudity.

Professional, amateur, and aspiring photographers are invited to enter the contest. The winning image(s), credited to the photographer, will be targeted to more than 250,000 people who attend Folsom Street Fair and its related

events.

Because all proceeds from Real Bad are donated to beneficiary organizations, there is only a small, one-time \$200 prize for the contest winner, organizers said. The deadline for entry is June 30. Winners will be contacted by July 5. Complete rules and entry forms are posted at www.realbad.org.

Gay seniors seek porn

The San Francisco Prime Timers, a social group for older gay men and their friends, is seeking donations for its upcoming sixth annual porn sale. Organizers said that this is an opportunity for people to weed out their collections, eliminate things they don't care for, or make room for new additions and help a 32-year-old nonprofit organization at the same time.

Items being sought include DVDs, books, magazines, calendars, 8 mm film, sex toys, puzzles, posters, etc. Items are individually priced for the sale, which this year takes place on Saturday, June 18.

To make a donation, arrange for a pick-up, or for more information about the sale or the Prime Timers organization, call Arthur Hurwith at (415) 648-8678.

Hep C workshop

The Living with Hepatitis C Project at Quan Yin Healing Arts Center will present a free workshop Saturday, March 26 at the group's office, 455 Valencia Street in San Francisco. Misha Cohen, OMB, L.Ac., will present the

workshop, which will focus on Chinese medicine and treatment for hepatitis C infection.

The session starts with a light breakfast at 9:30 a.m. and will end with a mini-Qigong class at noon, taught by Laura Bresler.

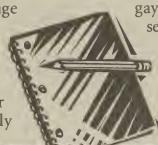
For more information, call or e-mail education coordinator Yukihiko Ippei Yasuda at (415) 861-4964 or qyhac@aol.com.

Workshop in Marin for DP law

The Spectrum Center for LGBT Concerns will offer an educational workshop designed to help Marin County business and nonprofit leaders, as well as interested couples and individuals, understand the sweeping changes contained in AB205, the Domestic Partner Rights and Responsibilities Act, which went into effect January 1. Linda Scaprotti, an attorney specializing in family law, will lead the workshop, which is scheduled for Wednesday, March 30 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Northern Bank Trust, 575 Redwood Highway in Mill Valley. There is a \$15 fee to attend and RSVPs are required by Monday, March 28.

Spectrum Executive Director Paula Pilecki said that the workshop is offered in response to the continuing demand from Marin businesses and individuals for comprehensive information about the new law. Spectrum held a similar workshop last December just before the law went into effect.

People interested in attending should RSVP to (415) 457-1115, ext. 206. For more information about Spectrum center, visit www.spectrummarin.org. ▼

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HIV rafting group hires new director

by Kevin Davis

Healing Waters, the organization that has since 1996 provided low-cost outdoor adventures to people with HIV and AIDS, has hired a new executive director, funding development whiz Michael Dugan.

Dugan replaces Karen Nem-sick, who led the organization for the past two years.

As the Stop AIDS Project's development director, Dugan set a record for the organization last June by raising \$100,000 over its funding goal for that year.

"At the risk of sounding trite, I went into counseling to have an impact on people's lives, and after 13 years I wanted, instead of having a direct impact, to help those providing the help," said Dugan, a Noe Valley resident who is openly gay.

Healing Waters' diversified funding base of corporate and private foundations included Wells Fargo, the North Bay's Silva Watson Moonwalk, Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, Folsom Street Events (2005), Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Castro Street Fair, and the Tides Foundation.

Later this year, Dugan expects to launch Healing Waters' first signature event, a "branding opportunity" to build the mailing list and donor acquisition base.

"I wish I could tell you more," said Dugan, who wanted to keep plans under wraps for now.

The small organization once run on one man's passion has grown into a nonprofit with two professional staff, about 180 volunteers, and an annual budget of \$258,000. Dugan's annual salary is \$65,000.

In 1995, after testing negative for HIV, rafting enthusiast Cale Siler decided to take often-isolated friends with HIV and AIDS away from urban daily regimens to inspire and empower them with wilderness thrills and campfires under the stars. Siler, a medical student, still sits on the 11-member, mixed-gender, multi-orientation advisory board.

Program director Rod Everett makes presentations to AIDS service organizations which charter seven of the 11 annual Healing Waters trips, such as Stop AIDS Project's Positive Force weekend trip last summer.

Each two-day, one-night, 15-participant trip requires four volunteers, two trip leaders, and several guides. The more challenging American River whitewater rafting trips require guides to attend three-week whitewater training to scout rapids, read water, and train for river rescue. More tranquil kayaking trips on bay waters in San Francisco and Monterey also require volunteers to undergo CPR and first aid training.

The cost for the trips, according to Healing Waters' Web site, is \$40 per person. Participants are allowed to bring a supportive friend, even if HIV-negative, for the same price. Participants car-pool out from the city Saturday at 7 a.m., for two days of rafting and return home Sunday night.

Healing Waters schedules the adventures according to season — kayaking day trips in the Bay Area's warm fall months, rafting in Sacramento in the spring.



Michael Dugan, Healing Waters' new executive director.

Beginning last year, the group flew in 11 recently diagnosed young people to its Camp Liquid in Lotus, California. Professional athletes solicited by advisory board and U.S. Kayaking Team member Kelly Starrett volunteered as camp counselors. A volunteer HIV physician was also on hand.

"Kelly called in his buddies, who work with the kids on self-esteem," said Dugan, a West Virginia native who served for eight years as the United Way Santa Cruz campaign director. "Kids in high school are cruel. At age 15 they have to hide being positive and popping meds."

But, for young campers "having HIV is a mute point," he added. "They're not a person with AIDS, but just a person."

Nutrition needs are also an important part of the organization's trips.

"From a nutrition standpoint we developed a healthy, balanced mix of carbohydrates, proteins, and fats," said Ann Cleveland, advisory board chair and local business magazine account manager, who attended a Healing Waters cross-country ski trip while employed at an ad agency sharing office space with the group in 1998 and two days later agreed to volunteer as a safety guide.

The trips offer a much-needed break for participants.

One camper told Dugan, "For 48 hours I didn't have AIDS."

"You just get out on the river and lose yourself in the experience, which in itself is a kind of healing," said two-time participant, Michael Kinney, a national wine magazine advertising manager and AIDS Health Project volunteer facilitator.

Discussion among campers is not limited to health issues, according to Kinney.

"I would say that happens later in the evening, then it's more a matter of networking stuff, swapping medication experience," he said. "Attention is paid to that, but it's by no means exclusive."

The only physical requirement is to be able to hold onto a boat strap.

Most participants are still able-bodied enough to handle oars, said Kinney, who added, "At times when people aren't that capable, [volunteers] bend over backward." ▼

For more information, or to reserve space on one of Healing Waters' fundraising water trips for everyone later this year, call (415) 621-7529 to, or go to www.hwaters.org.

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OPEN FORUM

Trampling marriage rights

The Terri Schiavo case currently gripping the nation is heart wrenching. Schiavo, 41, has been in what doctors call a persistent vegetative state since her heart stopped beating briefly in 1990 due to a potassium deficiency that may have been caused by an eating disorder. Her husband, Michael, has fought in Florida state courts for years to honor his wife's wishes that she would not want life-prolonging measures to be used for her. Nineteen state judges in Florida have ruled repeatedly in favor of the husband's right to have a feeding tube removed from her. Doctors who have submitted affidavits in the extensive litigation case have given Schiavo virtually no chance of recovery. Her brain is severely damaged, and while she is not brain dead, her cerebral cortex is impaired and scarred severely. But Terri's parents have fought her husband every step of the way, and last weekend, Congress stepped in to make this intensely personal family matter literally a federal case.

In the early morning hours Monday, the House of Representatives passed an emergency bill that required federal courts to intervene in what almost is always a state issue. President Bush, never one to miss an opportunity to placate religious conservatives, dramatically cut short a stay at his Crawford ranch to fly back to the White House so that he could immediately sign the bill. The Senate passed its version on a voice vote with three members on the floor. And that's where the concern should rest. Republicans, who always are screaming about the so-called sanctity of marriage, totally abandoned that stance when they trampled on Michael Schiavo's rights as a husband. This extraordinary congressional intervention goes against constitutional principles, simply to cater to a vocal minority of evangelical Christians. And it is a minority. An ABC News poll earlier this week showed the majority of Americans in favor of Terri Schiavo's right to die.

Every married couple in this country – and registered domestic partners, for that matter – should be alarmed by Congress' decision to insert itself into the Schiavo case. Gay Representative Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) said it best during a Sunday press conference called by House Democrats before the vote was taken, and he repeated it during floor debate. Congress, with this measure, is attempting to be the new "Super Supreme Court," he said, taking a thoroughly litigated case out of the hands of state judges and demanding a do-over in federal court. What happened to the Republicans' mantra of states' rights? Oh, we

get it, the states can have rights as long as they conform to the will of the Republican majority. Well, we've got a news flash for Congress: the last time we checked, America was not a theocracy (though with this latest vote it fast appears to be on the road to becoming one).

This action shows that Republicans will stop at nothing to invade the privacy of Americans, and trample on the legal rights granted under marriage to spouses. If personal decisions made between spouses (or partners) are not upheld, what's next? True, Terri Schiavo did not leave written instructions regarding her medical treatment options, but the courts thus far have ruled that her verbal instructions to her husband were adequate – and that's where the matter should have ended.

The hypocrisy exhibited by the GOP is on full frontal display in the Schiavo case. Last year during the presidential campaign (and the drumbeat hasn't stopped) conservative Republicans time and time again set out to define marriage as a union between one man and one woman, that the institution of marriage is "sacred," and that only heterosexuals have the right to marriage. In one weekend, they seriously undermined all their arguments to prove what a sham it all is: Michael Schiavo, as decided by Congress, has no legal rights to determine his wife's treatment options, per her request. Marriage means nothing to these legislators.

That's a frightening thought.

There are some Republicans who are troubled deeply by all this activity, and a few voted against the Schiavo law. One of them was Representative Christopher Shays (R-Connecticut), who told the *Los Angeles Times*, "How deep is this Congress going to reach into the personal lives of each and every one of us?"

That's a very good question. And given this week's developments, it looks like Congress is willing to go very deep indeed into the personal lives of Americans.

If there is a silver lining in the Schiavo case, however, it's that the intense media coverage has prompted Americans to discuss their wishes should their health deteriorate to the point where end of life decisions must be made by others. Here in the LGBT community, we've had a heightened awareness of the importance of living wills (in California, the appropriate document is called an advance health care directive). For more than 20 years we've lived with the AIDS epidemic and other illnesses gripping the community. Many of us, perhaps shunned by parents and family members, have had to draw up living wills so that our partner or other loved one could make medical decisions without fear of being taken to court or having those wishes disregarded.

If you haven't yet completed an advance health care directive, now is a good time to consider it. You don't need an attorney, and it's a way to make sure your health care decisions are your own. ▼



Editorial



Gays, Catholicism & pastoral care

by John Brown and Joe Curtin

Every few months, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Roman Catholics are challenged by statements from our hierarchy about our status as members of our church and the witness we give in our lives of our beliefs. We long to find in each of these statements – whether they are letters, directives, or most recently book excerpts – any mention of some core truths that we find from our lived experience as gay Catholics:

- That the Catholic Church has millions of LGBT members,
- That LGBT members are equal in every way to their non-LGBT counterparts, and
- That we are as in need of spiritual care, support, compassion, guidance, and access to all of the sacraments as our non-LGBT brothers and sisters.

Unfortunately, most of the communications from the church have a different tone altogether – derogatory, condemnatory, divisive, and lacking insight into the dignity and the difficulties of life as a sexual minority. It is the responsibility of the church to provide for the pastoral care of its members; that is the instruction and sanctifica-

tion of the faithful through its works and actions. If the instruction is not taking into account the experience of the faithful, and the provision of sacramental care (such as Eucharist) is withheld, the entire church is diminished and its message and effectiveness as promoter of human good compromised.

In addition to this lack of support, many LGBT Catholics find themselves attacked from the "mainstream" culture of our secular community. We are challenged for a belief system that is contrary to a consumer-based society. We are challenged for worshiping in a faith tradition that is patriarchal, hierarchical, and resistant to change. We are challenged by the amount of noise and distraction that is so much a part of modern life that we often have difficulty discerning our spiritual path, which is as important a part of our lives as our career path, sexuality, or personal growth.

So, why stay? For many, the decision is clearly not to. We have many friends who as former Catholics have stopped any type of spiritual practice, others that have found spiritual homes in the faith traditions of

other cultures as well as other Christian churches. The church has failed those members, and needs to evaluate its responsibility for that failure.

For many, even those of us who choose to stay with the church, hope for progress within the church seems overly optimistic at best, and perhaps naive. The leadership of the church, after all, is steadfast in its opposition to the most basic of progressive reforms, such as allowing married or women priests, so advocating for same-sex marriage within the Catholic Church seems to be a leap of faith that's too far. But this is the same church that has remained a steadfast advocate of peaceful resolution of international conflict, most recently in the Mideast and Iraq. This is the church that has been a constant reminder of the need for economic justice in the United States and throughout the world. This is the church that advocates against capital punishment, for children's rights, and ecumenical dialogue. This is the church that is home for millions of Catholics who support equal rights for LGBT people and same-sex cou-

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Caucus conundrum

The HIV/AIDS pandemic over the years has changed many of us. We have seen our friends suffer terribly through medication regimens, social stigma, and insurance nightmares. Thankfully, today the Ryan White Act, Medicare, Medi-Cal, and other social programs help some who suffer on a daily basis with this disease, but often only if they dissolve or hide what money they have in order to qualify as poor and desperate. And medical insurance companies use their term "pre-existing conditions" as a way of insuring the healthy while denying the sick (who really need it). That can all change.

We should commend LGBT state Senators Sheila Kuehl and Carole Migden and Assembly persons Mark Leno, John Laird, and Jackie Goldberg who are all members of the California Legislative LGBT Caucus. Last month they came forward with a health care plan which would cover all Californians and be less expensive. On February 23 Kuehl introduced "The California Health Insurance Reliability Act," SB840. It was co-authored by Migden, Leno, Laird, and Goldberg among others. Under the plan, everyone would have full coverage whether they are sick or well, employed, unemployed, underemployed or retired, a senior, or a child. The bill is comprehensive, would insure everyone, would save Californians money, and is publicly accountable. Estimates from an independent Lewin Group study show a savings for Californians of \$343.6 billion between 2006-2015.

SB840 is scheduled to go before the insurance committee in Sacramento on April 6. Senator Jackie Speier chairs that committee. The conundrum for the caucus and other supporters is, although two years ago Speier voted for SB921 (Kuehl's previous similar bill), she has so far not agreed to co-author this bill. Because Speier chairs the insurance committee, the bill will die on April 6 without her support. One senator could kill the chances of healthcare for everyone. Now is the time for all of us in the gay community who have been devastated and denied by the current system to send handwritten letters to Senator Speier, asking her to co-author the bill. Write to her at: Senator Speier, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.

We must remove pre-existing conditions from the healthcare lexicon. Healthcare should be a right for everyone, not a privilege. More information on the bill can be found at www.healthcareforall.org. Please write Senator Speier today.

Robert Meslinsky
San Francisco

Fiske and 15 Association

Jerry Jansen wrote a letter [Mailstrom, March 17] concerning the B.A.R.'s interview of Peter Fiske on the 25th anniversary of the 15 Association ["15 Association celebrates 25 years," February 24]. The records of the 15 Association show that Peter joined the club sometime between May and October 1980, some three to seven months after The 15 was founded and he has retained his membership continuously since then. At the time of Mr. Fiske's resignation from the Fraternal Committee six years ago, he was presented the honor of Fraternal Emeritus, a designation created specifically by our membership and the Fraternal Committee to honor Mr. Fiske.

Mr. Jansen's letter appears to be in disagreement with Mr. Fiske's recollections and opinions as expressed in the article. Agree or disagree they are only remembrances and fond reflections, not researched facts and there seems very little reason to attack Mr. Fiske as it appears Mr. Jansen is doing. I think everyone can agree that the 15 Association is going strong after 25 years and I can state from personal experience that Peter Fiske played a vital part in this milestone having been reached. He is respected by the 15 Association members for his integrity, honesty, and hard work for the club and the community, including his work on the board of the AIDS Emergency Fund and as its chairman, the Pride board and the board of the Interclub Fund to name only a few of his community affiliations.

Since Mr. Jansen has not been involved with the 15 Association for almost 14 years, it seems his letter is meant as a personal attack on Mr. Fiske, which is uncalled for considering Peter's history.

Don Folkers, Fraternal Member
and Former Chairman
The 15 Association
San Francisco

Other identities more important?

On March 24, 1971, shortly before the late Bob Ross began publishing the B.A.R., 175,000 people demonstrated in San Francisco against the Vietnam War. Among them, 3,000 queers came out publicly as "Homosexuals Against The War" (see photo in Susan Stryker and Jim Van Buskirk's *Gay By The Bay*, page 54). Sometimes they chanted, "Suck cock to beat the draft!"

This year's SF peace marches probably have a higher percentage of queer participants. Yet most queers now scatter themselves among the general crowd, not bothering to join any queer contingent, not raising queer issues, not carrying queer signs, banners, or

flags. Why? Are we "post-queer" yet? Are other identities and/or causes more important to us now?

I'd like to read the opinions of fellow queers on such questions, especially those born after 1971. Please post your views on the LGBTQI page of Indy-Bay.org (indymbay.org/lgbtqi).

Tortuga Bi Liberty
San Francisco

Guns and gays

Mark Van Slyke [Mailstrom, March 10] wrote "Do we really want everyone armed to the teeth with weapons, 'just in case'? That's weak. The stronger stance is one of no guns. Let's get rid of them. While we can't get rid of all of them, we have to take the strong position, the courageous position, that we as a civilized society don't want guns. So, to me, it's a bolder, more imaginative, and gutsier stance to make the public pronouncement that we as a society won't tolerate guns."

Nice idea, about 225 years too late. Face reality: there are millions of guns out there, and significant numbers of them are in the hands of criminals who are completely unaffected by any laws, high-minded principles, or posturing.

I grew up in the U.K. when guns weren't around. It was nice. But now I live in California, and I own a handgun because I know the police can't get to my home in time to do anything but tidy up. I have no choice but to be responsible for my own safety, and as a woman I prefer not to be at a disadvantage if faced by an assailant larger than me who is more experienced in violence.

If the letter writer doesn't want to have a gun, he is perfectly free to do without one. But he should not force his views on people with different opinions.

This position is 100 percent supported by my friends who are in law enforcement (quite a few, male and female, straight and gay), who know they can't be everywhere at once.

If someone can figure out a realistic way to remove guns from all of society, without door to door searches and civil war, I shall be very pleased. Meanwhile I will take care of myself.

Margaret Cliver
San Francisco

More on guns

In his March 10 letter, Mark Van Slyke wrote: "... Just think of how the Bush administration and the far right are really pushing this fear down the throats of our society. I was reading an excerpt of Buddhist author and teacher Jack Kornfield's ideas on creating peace in our world. He says, '... what is needed to bring benefit to the world? How does peace come about? The Buddha taught that peace is possible both individually and collectively, but that depends on skillful causes and conditions.'"

My response: "If you meet the Buddha while walking down the road, kill him at once." — ancient Buddhist saying.

That sound like peace and love and pacifism to anyone? Buddhist temples and monasteries were hotbeds of martial training. In Korea, one of the greatest warlords that ever rose to power, Maitreya, was a Buddhist priest. He was also one of the most ruthless in battle ever seen in Korean history. And yet, he was a consummate scholar of Buddhist lore and tradition, revered as a holy man, seen as a true reincarnation of the Buddha on Earth by his people.

Quoting a Korean martial arts text: "The Hwarang warriors' dedication to Mireuk Buddha (Sanskrit: Maitreya), the Buddha of the Future, caused this to change. Han wrote: 'Quite often Buddhist monks were instructors of the Hwarang. The monk Won Gwang, in fact, was the author of the famous Sesok Ogye, or Five Tenets'. Composed around 602, they constituted the Way of the Hwarang:

- Serve one's king with loyalty.
- Look after one's parents with filial piety.
- Treat one's peers with trust.
- Withstand enemy attacks with courage.
- Terminate life with discrimination.

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Clearly, even lofty Buddhists were not the total pacifists Mr. Van Slyke believes them to be.

Mark said: "The temptation to arm ourselves against each other is lazy thinking. The presence of guns alone seems to bring about violence, and violent solutions to problems that need skillful solutions."

This is the place where leftists fall down. All violence is force, but not all force is violence. Yes, using violence against violence is lazy. Tossing a hand grenade at a mugger would be violence. Proper self-defense is controlled force with thought, discipline, and concern for law and justice, with consideration for others not involved in the event. The synthesis of violence and self-defense is peace, and contrary to what this ahem, learned fellow, espouses, this is what civilization is built upon.

No civilization has ever been created, or maintained, without the use, presence, or threat, of force. Not even ours.

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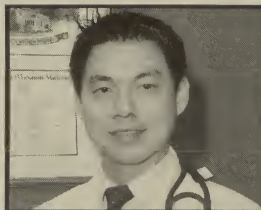
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Beltway boogie

by Paula Martinac

Our two most prominent national LGBT organizations recently announced changes that, on the surface, may seem like business as usual. But, in fact, these shifts could have a big impact on the course of our movement.

First, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force created a new Department of Public Policy and Governmental Affairs, which will lobby members of Congress and government agencies for LGBT rights. The public statement about the new addition was a quiet one that only the gay media took note of.

Then, several days later, the Human Rights Campaign drew both mainstream and gay press attention for the much-anticipated announcement of its new president. HRC's new head will be Joe Solmonese, a gay man who was formerly the executive director of Emily's List, a group that helps pro-choice Democratic women get elected to office.

What struck me about these two announcements was that they suggested policy modifications for the two groups, which – especially in recent years – have often been at odds politically and ideologically, not to mention stylistically.

NGLTF, representing the more progressive wing of our movement, has for many years occupied a back seat in Washington gay politics, working more at the state and local levels on antigay initiatives and leaving federal lobbying to HRC. As a result, we've had basically one vision of the LGBT movement on the Beltway – and it's a vision that many of us have found too centrist. Indeed, there was a lot of talk after Cheryl Jacques left the top post at HRC that she was forced out for making the organization too stridently Democratic, while under her predecessor, Elizabeth Birch, the group had worn a more "pragmatic," bipartisan face.

Now NGLTF has taken steps to have a much louder voice in Washington. The group has assembled a Capitol Hill lobbying team that includes, among others, Eleanor Acheson, a former Clin-

ton administration official, and, intriguingly, Amber Hollibaugh, a leftist activist who has long been involved in AIDS organizing and gay senior issues. (She's also a forthright speaker on queer sexuality; her essay collection, *My Dangerous Desires: A Queer Girl Dreaming Her Way Home*, probably wouldn't go over very well with many Republican – and Democratic – lawmakers.)

At the same time, HRC seems to be ripping a page from NGLTF's playbook and reassessing the importance of local LGBT organizing. After all, as our largest and best-funded organization, HRC took most of the blame when 11 antigay state amendments passed in a single day. During his first week on the job, then, Solmonese says he will set off on a cross-country tour to talk to gay and straight leaders and officials. "I've spent very little time in the last 10 years in Washington," Solmonese has stated. His job at Emily's List was to "go out across the country" in the effort to help women get elected.

From what I've read about him, Solmonese seems to suit his new employer to a T. He's someone who pleases Republicans and Democrats alike, as evidenced by the glowing bipartisan praise he's already picked up. But also, during the 2004 election, he made a difficult, some would say "pragmatic" move – Emily's List funded a Democratic pro-choice woman who was also in favor of passing the rabidly antigay Federal Marriage Amendment. While Solmonese argues he was just upholding his organization's mission, the move raised the ire of many of us who believe political and social movements should stick together, not sell each other out.

It will be interesting to see how the sometime-rivals NGLTF and HRC adjust to each other's turf. In quintessential NGLTF style, Exec-



Christine Smith

utive Director Matt Foreman has already put forth his belief that there is plenty of room for "multiple voices" on Capitol Hill. In contrast, Solmonese told the *Advocate* that "we've got to come together and make sure...we share a common vision."

You can probably tell that I'm a bigger fan of NGLTF than of HRC. Personally, I don't think any social movement can have a "common vision," unless it's a false one that's only the vision of the most vocal and powerful among us.

But actually, I'm optimistic about both these changes in our two top groups. NGLTF has a lot to offer in the realm of federal lobbying, most notably a view of the LGBT community as bound up with other social-justice movements in an effort to bring about positive change for many different kinds of people. Indeed, the group's penchant for coalition-building has always been its strong suit.

And HRC takes into America's heartland its reputation for holding the middle course – which will appeal to straight community and religious leaders who don't really understand what this "gay rights stuff" is about but who may be swayed by the stories of and faces of individuals. And Solmonese avers that "increasing our presence and visibility across America will be a top priority of my tenure" – a valuable goal to bring to the gay-activism table. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of eight books and editor in chief of *Q Syndicate*. She can be reached care of this publication or at Lesbian Notions@qsyndicate.com.

Gospel artists respond to AIDS



Jane Pittman O'Leary

Gospel artists and others filled San Francisco's Herbst Theatre with song Monday, March 21 as the Yvette Flunder Foundation hosted a benefit "One Voice" to raise funds for the foundation's HIV/AIDS work. Bishop Yvette Flunder joined the Oakland Interfaith Choir, Tramaine Hawkins, Donald Lawrence, and others in an evening of music. Above, members of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, which also performed, took part in a quick rehearsal before the show.

All in the family

by Reese Aaron Isbell

Editor's note: While the Bay Area Reporter looks for a new political columnist, following the retirement of Wayne Friday, we have invited several LGBT officials and others to write guest columns. This is the sixth in a series of such columns.

About two months ago, my grandma wrote a letter to her elected representatives for the very first time. It began: "I am a 78-year-old grandmother and great-grandmother and I am very upset at what President Bush is doing to our country. He is supposed to be a Christian; I have my doubts but that is between God and him...." After writing further about her concerns, she ended the letter with a simple, "Please use your vote to stop President Bush..."

Please use your vote to stop President Bush.... What sweeter words could possibly be written? Especially when so many terrible policies are coming from him and his cronies in Congress that are detrimental to our everyday lives. Social Security "reform," bankruptcy "reform," tort "reform," so much "reform" that one might think that the campaign of 2004 was all about "reform."

Oh, wait, it wasn't! It's almost as if these issues were hidden from the voting public. And, instead, the red state voters were all worked up into frenzy about same-sex marriage. So then, after our marriage-equality rights and other issues deemed against "moral values" were used against the Democrats, it would seem that the real Republican agenda is to dismantle all government programs and the social safety net. The issues that were not discussed last year during the election are sweeping through Congress; and the issues, like marriage, that got the red state voters all riled up, are being held on the backburner until, I might postulate, just before the next election in 2006 – to get them all in a tizzy again. How patriotic.

Isn't it interesting how so-called moral values never seem relevant to Republicans in business and financial legislation? Take, for example, the bankruptcy bill. Republican Senator **Charles Grassley** (Iowa), the sponsor of the legislation that would make it harder on the poor and easier for the rich, was recently lobbied by a national group of church leaders and Christian lawyers who spoke on how the Bible taught to forgive debts. (Those are moral values I can get behind!) But, wait, read how Grassley responded: "... the Constitution does not provide for a theocracy... I can't listen to Christian lawyers because I would be imposing the Bible on a diverse population." Interesting. Very interesting. Isn't this the same right-wing Republican senator who voted for the Federal Marriage Amendment and has no trouble



Gubernatorial candidate
Phil Angelides

imposing his religious views on social issues? Why, yes it is. Where did his love of morality and Christianity go in the midst of legislation favoring Big Business? How hypocritical. But not surprising.

Speaking of big business interests, I got an e-mail from the Human Rights Campaign the other day telling me to "Apply Now for New HRC VISA Platinum Credit Card." In the midst of my blogging daily about the evils of Republicans in Congress destroying bankruptcy protections to help the credit card industry make even more billions of dollars in profit, one of our own LGBT organizations sends out an e-mail to sell us all out to said industry. Silly me, I thought I had signed up with them to fight for equality, not a 0% introductory offer. But I guess we should be proud to fight for the equal right of all Americans to get further into debt to the greedy credit card industry. While I don't like to speak ill of any of our LGBT organizations, because they are working hard on our behalf, I do have to wonder if they considered the timing of this promotion. All that said, I will give them props for hiring a progressive, pro-choice new president in **Joe Solmonese**.

Stateside, it's quite obvious that the LGBT community is getting behind Democratic state Treasurer **Phil Angelides** to take on **Arnold Schwarzenegger** in the gubernatorial campaign next year. With the other major potential Democratic candidate being Attorney General **Bill "traditional-marriage" Lockyer**, who has saddled up with the religious right in fighting against marriage equality, it's not hard to see why those attending Angelides's Regency Ballroom kick-off dinner last week were our own LGBT leaders – Assemblyman **Mark Leno** (D-San Francisco), the emcee for the evening; San Francisco Public Utilities Commission General Manager **Susan Leal**; Democratic Party Chair **Leslie Katz**; City Treasurer **Jose Cisneros**; **Jim Rivaldo**; **Robert Haaland**; **Debra**

Walker; and newly-minted Under One Roof Executive Director **Mike Marshall**. I'll also give a special shout-out to the hot firefighter at Mark's table – not sure if he's an LGBT leader or not, but he can lead me out of, or maybe into, a fire any day....

And, by the way, we do need a new governor.

Maybe if he actually spent some time in Sacramento instead of flying around the country for himself and his special interests, cozying up with big business, and playing directly from the right-wing Bush administration's handbook, he might see that our state legislators are working hard on issues that do affect our daily lives. Instead, he'd rather continue to fundraise and campaign toward elections of his personal choosing because he seems to perform best when he's not working at all. He's not really a governor; he just plays one on TV.

On the local side, I'm still crazy in love with Mayor **Gavin Newsom** for his rockin' oratory in support of our marriage equality. His consistent and strident words continue to knock me out every time. Mayor Newsom, you keep on rockin'! I'm also pleased to see that Newsom's just hired an out lesbian as his director of public policy. **Julian Potter** will replace **Joyce Newstat**, another out lesbian, in the position. Potter was formerly a special assistant to President **Bill Clinton** as the liaison to the gay and lesbian community and clearly will be working with Newsom to the betterment of our San Francisco community and LGBT family.

And keeping it all in the family, my mom recently wrote letters following my grandma's lead. When they asked me to help polish their letters, I didn't hesitate. Having worked in Washington, D.C. and knowing how important one simple letter can be (or in this case two!), I knew my duty as a son/grandson was coupled with my duty as a progressive citizen to get these messages out.

So can I get a round of applause, and an Amen, for my mom and grandma right now? Damn straight, Amen! Paraphrasing our own already-deeply-missed **Wayne Friday**: how many letters did you write this week? If my non-politically-inclined family members can do it, surely our LGBT family can too. ▼

Reese Aaron Isbell, MPP, currently serves as the newsletter editor for the **Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club** and as an independent political consultant for Assemblyman **Mark Leno**, but mostly he is simply an unemployed activist who blogs at www.reesesworld.com. He would also like it to be known that should he ever become brain dead, please remove his feeding tube before Republican politicians can get anywhere near him.

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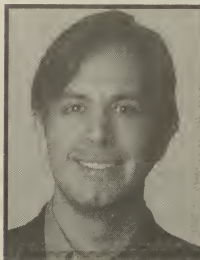
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What was the 'Save Our Children' campaign?

by Liz Highleyman

March 25, 1940 (65 years ago this week): "Save Our Children" crusader Anita Bryant is born in Barnsdall, Oklahoma.

Following a decade of relative liberalization, LGBT people faced a powerful backlash in the late 1970s, exemplified by Anita Bryant's "Save Our Children" campaign. While her efforts did much to galvanize the nascent religious right, they also re-energized the gay rights movement.

Bryant was born in March 1940 in Barnsdall, Oklahoma. Raised a Southern Baptist, she began singing at an early age, first performing at her grandparents' church and later appearing with evangelist Billy Graham. After being crowned Miss Oklahoma in 1958 and winning second runner-up in the Miss America contest the following year, Bryant embarked on a career as a professional singer.

With a string of pop hits and best-selling religious albums, Bryant came to exemplify the wholesome all-American girl. She entertained the troops with Bob Hope at USO shows during the Vietnam War, was the first celebrity to perform the national anthem

at a Super Bowl, and sang the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" at Lyndon B. Johnson's funeral. In the late 1960s, the Florida Citrus Commission hired her as spokeswoman for its orange juice advertisements.

Then, in January 1977, the Miami-Dade County Commission passed one of the country's first gay antidiscrimination ordinances. Bryant was disturbed by the new law and launched a campaign for its repeal. "If gays are granted rights, next we'll have to give rights to prostitutes and

to people who sleep with St. Bernards and to nailbiters," she fretted. "Miami's blundering 'gay' ordinance is no more a civil rights issue than is the arrest of a drunk for disturbing the peace."

Dubbing the effort "Save Our Children," Bryant became one of the first to employ the religious right's now-ubiquitous "family values" language, exploiting fears that homosexual men were pedophiles determined to corrupt children. "The recruitment of our children is absolutely necessary for the survival and growth of homosexuality," she stated. "Since homosexuals cannot reproduce, they must recruit and freshen their ranks." On June 7, voters overturned the ordinance by a wide margin. Bryant vowed to take her campaign to the national level, declaring, "The battle of parents to protect their children from homosexuality has just begun."

The Miami upset — which put the gay issue on front pages across the country — mobilized LGBT people from large cities to small towns. In San Francisco and New York City, spontaneous demonstrations erupted on several consecutive nights. Thousands marched in the streets of Chicago, Los Angeles, and New Orleans. Angry queers confronted Bryant wherever she appeared on her singing tours. When she performed at a legal convention in Houston, some 20 lawyers wearing black armbands with pink triangles stormed out in protest. In Des Moines, activist Tom Higgins, posing as a reporter, tossed a banana cream pie in her face.

Countless individuals came out of the closet for the first time, and numerous new local organizations sprang up. The town of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, in Canada, held its first-ever gay rights rally. Most famously, the LGBT community launched a boycott of Florida orange juice that gained widespread support. According to Robert McQueen and Randy Shilts, writing in the July 27, 1977 issue of the *Advocate*, the defeat "resurrected a slumbering activism and converted apathy into anger and action."

The viciousness of the Dade campaign also prompted liberal politicians and members of the media to speak out. President Jimmy Carter said he did not regard homosexuality as a threat to the family, while an editorial in a Winston-Salem, North Carolina, daily newspaper called the vote "a disgusting parody and abuse of democratic process."

But gays and their allies were not the only ones spurred into action. "[I]t was Anita Bryant who first led fundamentalist Christians into politics under the banner of



Anita Bryant

a domestic social issue," according to journalist and social historian Dudley Clendinen. One of her supporters, the Reverend Jerry Falwell, went on to found the Moral Majority in 1979. Although the California counterpart to the Save Our Children campaign — the 1978 Briggs initiative, which would have banned homosexuals from teaching in public schools — was soundly defeated, the religious right succeeded in extending its political influence during the ensuing decade, in part due to the devastating impact of AIDS on the LGBT community.

"I am willing to sacrifice my career and do whatever is necessary to save our children from homosexuality," Bryant had declared, and her prediction came true. The Citrus Commission declined to renew her contract (although it would hire another homophobic spokesperson, Rush Limbaugh, in 1994), and bookings for singing engagements fell off. Bryant and her husband divorced in 1980, earning her the scorn of many erstwhile allies among Christian conservatives. "It was hard to understand the viciousness," she lamented to the *New York Times*. "All of a sudden, nobody would touch me."

She returned to the Midwest and remarried, but her attempt to revive her performing career — singing and preaching to church tour-bus audiences — was largely a failure. Although Bryant "helped build the two great competing movements of the last two decades," in Clendinen's estimation, she never again played a prominent role in political activism. ▼

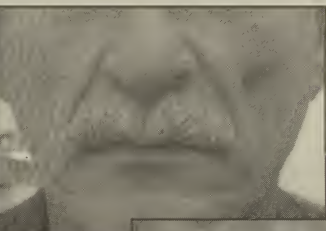
Liz Highleyman is a freelance writer and editor who has written widely on health, sexuality, and politics. She can be reached care of this publication or at PastOut@qsyndicate.com.

Suggested reading

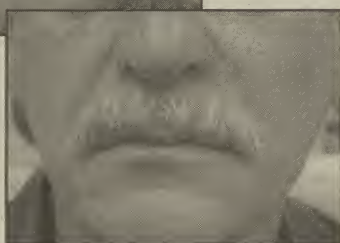
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Karel wins appeal; allowed to sue for wrongful death

by Ed Walsh

KGO Radio talk show host Charles Karel Bouley, known as Karel to his listeners, won a major victory in court last week when a three-judge panel ruled that he has the right to proceed with a wrongful death lawsuit on behalf of his partner, Andrew Lee Howard.

"I screamed. I yelled. For three years everyone told me it's not going to happen," Karel told the *Bay Area Reporter* this week.

In his suit, Karel accuses the Long Beach Memorial Medical Center and three doctors of malpractice. Howard died of a heart attack in the hospital in May 2001. He was 34. The couple had been together for more than 11 years and had registered as domestic partners.



Charles Karel Bouley

In a ruling issued on Tuesday, March 15, the Second Appellate District of the Court of Appeal in Los Angeles overturned a lower

court ruling that found that Karel had no legal standing to file suit. The appeals court ruled that a law passed in 2002 that granted domestic partners the right to sue for wrongful death applied retroactively to suits pending before the courts in 2002.

Karel told the *B.A.R.* that his lawsuit will proceed and that the only thing that would stop it would be a successful appeal by the defendants through the California Supreme Court.

In a message posted on his KarelChannel.com Web site, he wrote: "I have won a major battle in the war. But remember, this is not for me. I have been pointing my finger for four years, now, instead of looking at me, the courts will look at what I've been pointing my finger at. Congratulations Andrew, this is truly for you. I love you." ▼

Court considers dog maul appeal

by Ed Walsh

The California Court of Appeal has until mid-June to issue its decision on the appeals made on behalf of prosecutors and defendants in the infamous 2001 San Francisco dog-mauling case.

On Tuesday, March 15, a three-judge panel of the First District Court of Appeal in San Francisco heard oral arguments from an attorney for Marjorie Knoller, who was convicted along with her husband, Robert Noel, of involuntary manslaughter in connection with the fatal dog-mauling of the couple's neighbor, Diane Whipple. The appeals panel also heard from a lawyer from the state attorney general's office who argued that Knoller's original conviction for second-degree murder should be reinstated.

Knoller's attorney, Dennis Riordan, argued that although Knoller is free now after serving her prison sentence, her conviction should be overturned and her record should be cleared. Riordan argued that the original trial judge, San Francisco Superior Court Judge James Warren, was out of line when he silenced Knoller's attorney, Nedra Ruiz, after Ruiz made a series of objections during the prosecution's

closing arguments. In an angry rebuke, Warren told Ruiz that if she didn't sit down, the next objection she would make would be from a holding cell.

Arguing for the state, Deputy Attorney General Amy Haddix told the appeals court that Warren's admonishment wouldn't have affected the outcome of the case. Haddix said that the closing arguments made by Assistant San Francisco District Attorney Jim Hammer were not objectionable.

Haddix argued that not only should the panel turn down Knoller's request for exoneration, but that it should reinstate the jury's original conviction of second-degree murder for Knoller. Unlike Noel, Knoller was initially convicted of second-degree murder because she was with her two dogs during the attack on Whipple.

Outside court, Whipple's former partner, Sharon Smith, told reporters, "It's been almost three years to the day since the criminal trial ended. It's been a very emotional afternoon."

When asked about what she hoped would happen, she replied: "Obviously, I want the murder charge reinstated and for Marjorie to go back to prison."

Smith has moved on with her life and is raising two children with a new partner. She and her

partner became pregnant at the same time through artificial insemination and Smith is currently pregnant with the couple's third child, according to Michael Cardoza, the attorney who represented Smith throughout the trial.

Hammer was also in attendance for the hearing and in comments to reporters outside court,

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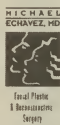
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Struttin' their stuff



Contestants for the Miss Gay Primavera 2005 crown greet the crowd Monday, March 21 at Esta Noche bar in the Mission District, following the first round of competition. From left, Tanya, Estrella, Alejandra, Perla, and Diamond Girl competed in presentation and talent during Monday's show. The winner, who will receive \$500, will be chosen Wednesday, March 30 following the grand finale, during which the contestants will model swimwear and evening attire. Next week's show begins at 10:30 p.m. Esta Noche is located at 3079 16th Street.

SF gay book publisher closes up shop

by Zak Szymanski

It has been 35 years since Winston Leyland first ventured into publishing, and the gay literary world has never been the same.

The 64-year-old founder and operator of Gay Sunshine Press and Leyland Publications has produced and reprinted over 130 titles, including some of the first out and proud gay erotica, some groundbreaking foreign gay works in translation, poetry and fiction classics, and political and historical nonfiction.

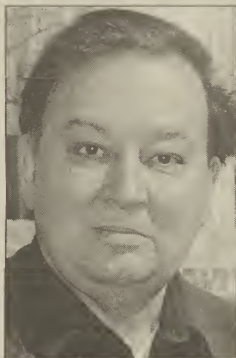
But earlier this month Leyland announced that he was closing his San Francisco-based business due to illness. It is a decision he made for personal reasons, he said, in order to deal with his health as well as his pending move from his Castro neighborhood apartment. Leyland spoke with the *Bay Area Reporter* this week to give thanks to all those who supported his work.

"It is very important to me that I thank all those who have been supportive, and that includes, of course, all of the writers in the anthologies and collections," said Leyland, who was famous for pursuing well-known and lesser-known writers for his projects, sometimes traveling to meet them or arranging for their works to be translated or re-printed.

Gay Sunshine Press evolved out of *Gay Sunshine Journal*, a news tabloid originally published in 1970 by a collective loosely associated with the Berkeley Gay Liberation Front. After a brief hiatus, Leyland resurrected the journal in 1971 as a literary and political quarterly, eventually deciding he wanted to preserve work in a more permanent format.

The first books under Gay Sunshine Press were published beginning in 1975, most of which focused on politics, literature, and nonfiction. Then, in 1984, Leyland Publications was founded as a separate imprint to focus on popular gay culture and erotica.

Of all his books, Leyland said he is most proud of publishing translated works from writers around the world, as well as titles like *Queer Dharma*, an anthology



Publisher Winston Leyland

of essays by gay Buddhists, and his last major project, *Out in the Castro*, which was released in 2001 as the first comprehensive book about the neighborhood's history and present-day attractions. Leyland also published work by Allen Ginsberg, Jean Genet, Arthur Rimbaud, and Gore Vidal. *Gay Roots* was a periodic collection which brought together decades of work from Gay Sunshine Press, including poetry, fiction, essays, interviews, comics, and biography. "There was a fair amount of controversy considering the subject matter on the books," said Leyland. "I considered publishing to be my activism."

Kent Fordey, the senior book buyer at Washington, D.C.'s historic Lambda Rising bookstore, said that Leyland's contributions to a gay literary and political

movement were unique.

"Winston Leyland is one of the great fathers of gay publishing. He was out on the forefront from the very beginning, with an incredibly wide range of literature," said Fordey. "Not only was he incredibly dedicated, he would choose unknown and little-known authors and publish them whether or not he made money off of them. He also brought back classics that were out of print at the time, and he kept those classics in print as long as he could. You couldn't get Jean Genet's poetry or Rimbaud's gay poetry in this country until he put them back in print. He also published a lot of interviews with writers, including with famous writers before they were famous."

Fordey said that what was unique about Leyland's press was its unapologetic gay themes and content.

"He has never hidden behind anything. He has always been out there, always been a gay publisher, and always published gay books. He never tried to be a general trade publisher because that's not what he wanted to do. He wanted to preserve a lot of gay literature, whether it was good or bad, sexual or non-sexual. There's no other publisher like him at the moment and we're all going to miss him immensely."

Books from Gay Sunshine Press and Leyland will now be out of print, available only as long as they remain on shelves at bookstores and in circulation through collectors' circles. Leyland also plans to donate his own remaining stock to charity. ▼

Dog maul appeal

◀ page 11

the former prosecutor, turned television court commentator, blasted Warren's decision that tossed out Knoller's conviction for second-degree murder, calling it "outrageous and wrong."

"He misstated the law and based his opinion on Marjorie Knoller's self-serving statement that she didn't know [the mauling] was going to happen. The whole point of implied malice as opposed

to an intentional killing is that you don't know what is going to happen but you should have known."

In interviews with reporters after they reached their verdict in March 2002, jurors in the case said they strongly agreed that the couple was culpable for ignoring warnings that their dogs were dangerous.

Later, in exclusive interviews with the *Bay Area Reporter*, two of the jurors said that the panel had speculated that Knoller may have intentionally "sicked" the dogs on Whipple. ▼

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Gay liaison leaves City Hall post

by Matthew S. Bajko

Joe Caruso, director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services and Mayor Gavin Newsom's liaison to the LGBT community, is leaving his City Hall post as of Friday, March 25 due to the city's budget problems.

The city is facing a \$102 million budget deficit this year and the mayor and his staff are currently reviewing budget proposals from city departments, which were asked to present budgets with 5 percent cuts. As part of his own plan to balance the city's finances, Newsom is eliminating the MONS director position and is expected to announce other staff changes.

Caruso, who is openly gay and a Castro resident, will move over to the Office of Emergency Services, where he will start Monday, March 28.

As MONS director, Caruso received a salary of \$93,000 and served in the liaison role on a voluntary basis. The mayor's office



Joe Caruso

said Wednesday that it is currently looking for a new LGBT liaison but could give no timeline as to when one would be appointed.

Caruso's new duties will include leading a community outreach effort for the agency and organizing individual neighborhood

events throughout the city commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 1906 earthquake and the subsequent rebirth and revitalization of the city.

"I look forward to working with [OES director] Annemarie Conroy and the deputy chief of staff," said Caruso. "Whatever the mayor needs, I am here to serve."

In addition, he will be tasked with a grassroots expansion of the Neighborhood Emergency Response Teams, engaging local residents and businesses to join and get trained on how to serve as the city's first responders to a natural disaster or terrorist attack.

As the mayor's LGBT liaison and MONS director, Caruso played a key role in overseeing the gay weddings that took place last February and March. When Rosie O'Donnell phoned City Hall to plan her wedding to longtime partner Kelli Carpenter, it was Caruso who took the call. Present in the room when O'Donnell and Carpenter exchanged vows, Caruso stepped in as a witness for the couple. ▼

Retrovirus confab looks at lipo, hep C, & heart

by Bob Roehr

The introduction of protease inhibitors nearly a decade ago dramatically improved the treatment of HIV infection and increased life expectancy. It also allowed other more slowly developing medical issues to emerge. Some of those issues are tied to coinfections and others to the therapies themselves.

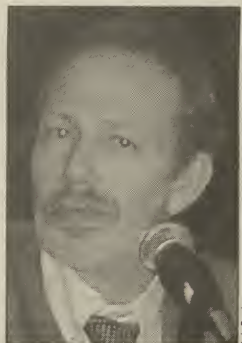
HIV researchers are devoting increased attention to these issues and at the 12th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections last month spotlighted some of their findings.

Lipodystrophy is the most visible characteristic of long-term HIV infection and treatment; it is seen in about half of all patients. It is a still-mysterious series of changes in body fat—a combination of the death of fat cells and failure to replace them in some places and their unnatural accumulation in other places.

Dutch researcher Peter Reiss told a plenary session of the conference that thymidine analogs—the so-called D drugs, most notably d4T (Stavudine)—and protease inhibitors are the primary risk factors for developing lipodystrophy. "Withdrawing protease inhibitors does not reverse lipodystrophy ... but replacement of thymidine analogs with another nucleoside analog does slowly reverse limb fat loss," he said.

There is growing evidence that mitochondrial toxicity and dysfunction associated with these drugs affects insulin resistance and may contribute to lipodystrophy.

Northwestern University researcher Robert Murphy reported 24-week data on the ongoing AACTG A5110 study on the effect of switching regimens on lipodystrophy. It is the first to use a stan-



Dutch researcher Peter Reiss

dardized scan of thigh fat in addition to scanning for torso fat.

Patients who did not switch from a regimen containing either d4T or AZT (Zidovudine) saw a continued 3.2 percent loss in thigh fat, while those who switched to abacavir (Ziagen) showed essentially no change in their thighs. However, those who switched to a thymidine sparing regimen of lopinavir (Kaletra) and nevirapine (Viramune) experienced an 8.4 percent increase in thigh fat. Both groups that switched regimens saw similar increases in abdominal fat.

Murphy called this "very encouraging for patients who have peripheral atrophy." Researchers are collecting quality of life data but will not analyze it until the 48-week study is completed later this year.

Similar improvements in lipodystrophy are being seen in the RAVE study in England, where patients were switched from "D" drugs to either abacavir or tenofovir (Viread). The advantage of tenofovir is that fewer patients discontinued the drug due to a hypersensitivity reaction and there

were better improvements in cholesterol, triglycerides, and other blood measures.

Reiss said, "The potential to reverse lipodystrophy is limited" and partial. It is better on the limbs than on the face. The bottom line is that "prevention is better than cure."

He said managing these toxicities is difficult but possible in the developed world; it is nearly impossible in the developing world.

Heart attacks

Two years ago, Danish researcher Jens Lundgren presented data showing that the risk of myocardial infarction or heart attack increases the longer one is on anti-HIV therapy. A larger set of data confirms that.

Part of the reason is that some drugs may increase blood lipids or fats, a known factor for increased risk of heart attack. He said the study is not large enough to get a sense of how much individual drugs may contribute to the effect and how much of it might be because of genetic traits of the patient. It likely is a combination of factors because only some of the patients on identical regimens develop lipid abnormalities.

He urged physicians to keep the increased risk from HIV drugs in context: it is about the same as that associated with smoking. Being overweight and having diabetes are other risk factors. Changing the HAART regimen, stopping smoking, diet and exercise, and lipid lowering drugs all can reduce this risk.

Lundgren said that 23 percent of their HIV patients died each year before HAART, now only 1.5 percent to 2 percent die each year from all causes. "The message is the extraordinary benefit of [anti-HIV] treatment," as compared with the relatively minor increased

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D.C. mayor's gay liaison murdered

by Bob Roeher

The mayor's liaison to the LGBT community in Washington, D.C. was stabbed to death inside her home on the afternoon of March 16. Wanda R. Alston, 45, played a prominent role in both local and national affairs as a black lesbian activist who was able to communicate across many communities.

The next day police arrested and charged William Parrot Jr., 38, with the murder. Parrot was an

unemployed neighbor who has claimed he was high on crack at the time and had sought money to support his habit. Alston resisted and her body carried numerous knife wounds as evidence of that fact.

The apparent rapid resolution of the murder and its sheer banality did not allow for fears and rumors to take hold within the community. It kept the focus of discussion on a life of achievement that ended much too soon.

Alston was born and raised in Newport News, Virginia, where

segregation was slow to depart and life in her large working class family was hard. She joined the Air Force soon after high school, using the military as a pathway to education and a better life.

She moved to Washington, D.C. in 1985. Cocaine use turned into addiction, which she shook in 1990. That experience left her with an abiding personal commitment to issues of substance abuse.

Recovery also signaled the emergence of Alston as a political activist. In four years at the National Organization for Women, first as personal assistant to former Executive Director Patricia Ireland and then with increasing responsibilities, she played a key role in organizing five national marches and joined the U.S. delegation to the World Conference on Women in Beijing, China in 1995.

She worked for the Human Rights Campaign before joining the administration of Washington, D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams in 1999. She served in various positions within city government before being appointed to head up the Office on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Affairs in 2001. That position was elevated to cabinet level status last fall.

Alston was a delegate to the 2004 Democratic National Convention and took a leave of absence from her city job to work on John Kerry's presidential campaign.

She met Stacey Long, 37, last year and proposed a few months later. The pair was planning a



Wanda Alston



Council member Jim Graham at Saturday's memorial

wedding ceremony for June.

Alston's staff became concerned when they could not contact her last Wednesday. They notified Long, who discovered Alston's body lying in a pool of blood inside their residence. Funeral services were on March 21 in Washington, D.C., with burial in Newport News, Virginia.

Hundreds attended the Monday funeral, including Ireland, House D.C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D), and Williams.

Remembering a hero

The community came together on Saturday, March 19 to share their stories of the force of nature that was known as Wanda. "This is a celebration of life for a phenomenal woman ... whose vision was to reach out and build bridges, and touch each other," said the Reverend Dyan McCray of the Unity Fellowship Church.

Surveying the century old sanctuary filled with about 400 people, McCray said, "This is exactly what Wanda often did. Even as an ancestor sitting in heaven,

she has once again brought people together. She never stops doing it."

Jim Graham, one of two openly gay members of the D.C. City Council, clearly had been shaken by Alston's brutal murder. "It leaves me searching for faith," he said. They first met when he was executive director of the Whitman-Walker Clinic and they shared a commitment to ending substance abuse.

"She had such an acute mind and the ability to zero in on what mattered and put the rest of it to one side." The facts surrounding her death led Graham to "renew my determination to fight substance abuse in this city."

Adrian Fenty, another member of the council and a likely candidate for mayor next year, said Alston was "so tough, so aggressive, but nobody had a bad word to say about her." He attributed that to her passion for politics and that she always asked about your family. "It was about people."

David Catania, the other openly gay member of the council, praised Alston for her feistiness, a

page 17 ►

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In her own words

Wanda Alston sat down to tell her story in an interview with the Rainbow History Project in February 2001. Here are excerpts from the conversation.

Identity

People always ask the question, "Are you black first, or are you a woman first?" I have to be honest with you, in my household no one talked about the color of my skin but they certainly reminded me that I was a girl. So when it comes to my sexuality, it is less important to my race and my sex, because it is less visible...my sexuality is important to me and if I want to make it important to others, it's through education and sharing my story.

... I can't stop fighting racism, because no matter how old I get I'm still going to be black. I can't stop fighting [sexism] because no matter how old I get I'm still going to be a woman. I can't stop fighting some of the other isms I see because I can't change those things. I'm going to change the culture and begin to work with people who want to change the culture.

World Conference on Women, in China (1995)

I went there to talk about lesbianism and that fact the lesbian rights was not part of the platform and that it would not be part of the platform of action ... I was appalled ... What we first saw was that lesbianism was such a needed topic.

Human Rights Campaign

By the time I got to HRC I saw the gay movement from a national perspective but I saw what it really was. It was a microcosm of wealthy gay white men, white women, who were also racist.

... One thing that I like about HRC is that they know how to do marketing ... I have to give them credit for being the best marketers out there in marketing the gay and lesbian message. That's what attracted me to them. I wanted to learn how to raise money the way they did. I wanted to learn everything I could from them. ▼

Source: www.rainbowhistory.org/Alston.htm

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Beauty queen tackles AIDS stigma in Asian communities

by Matthew S. Bajko

If anyone is assured a romantic kiss at the stroke of midnight on New Year's, it should be a beauty queen. Yet the most Olena Rubin, the reigning Miss Hawaii, received as 2005 began was an embrace.

The single 24-year-old Honolulu resident performed at Fresh, a gay New Year's Eve dance party and AIDS benefit where she sang her rendition of Bette Midler's "Do you Want to Dance," sung originally by Bobby Freeman.

"I had a date with 500 gay men. I didn't get any kiss but I got a lot of hugs," joked Rubin, who won the Miss Hawaii 2004 competition last June, part of the Miss America pageant.

By winning the crown, she became the first Miss Hawaii to choose HIV and AIDS awareness as her platform. In a culture reluctant to discuss sexual issues, let alone HIV and AIDS, Rubin is using her yearlong reign to break down social stigmas about sex and AIDS within the Asian and Pacific Islander community.

The San Francisco-based API Wellness Center tapped Rubin to be the spokeswoman for the country's first-ever National API HIV/AIDS Awareness Day to be held Thursday, May 19. The event will kick off a yearlong campaign to raise awareness about AIDS and HIV among APIs, both gay and straight.

"In general, HIV awareness in API communities, it is there. But there is a huge stigma in the community: stigma around sex, around anything queer. It's about HIV but it's bigger than HIV," said Lance Toma, the center's deputy director. "We really need to get to family members, friends, all the people in the communities who think HIV doesn't touch them. We are organizing in the gay, lesbian, transgender community but there is so much work to do around families."

Locally, health officials are concerned that gay APIs are increasingly at risk for contracting HIV. For years, API men who have sex with men had the lowest HIV prevalence rate, ranging between 3 percent and 5 percent. But recently, that prevalence rate has shot up to 17 percent.

"We still need to explore this data. I was surprised at the huge increase all of a sudden," said Toma. "On the ground we have always known our API brothers and cousins are taking big risks. There have always been risk factors in our community."

Those who know Rubin say she can play a critical role in helping the API community overcome its stigma toward AIDS as well as foster more open dialogue about sexual matters in general.

"Olena is real and she is very down to earth and very sincere at whatever she does. She has been a wonderful spokesperson for HIV issues in Hawaii," said Steve Takemura, chief financial officer at New Leaf: Services for Our Community and the executive director of the Miss San Francisco competition, a feeder to the Miss California pageant.

Takemura, who first met Rubin after she won her crown last summer, invited her to help emcee the local competition that took place Sunday, March 13. Having gotten to know her over the last year, Takemura said Rubin is not only very engaging but is also adept at helping people confront subjects they normally would avoid discussing.

"Olena has a way of talking to people and engaging people in conversations on these types of issues that normally they would feel very uncomfortable talking about," he said. "Hawaiian people — if someone in their family contracted HIV they would be there for them but they would never talk about it. Not wanting to ac-

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Olena Rubin, Miss Hawaii 2004

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SFAF

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implementation of health, social, and spiritual support services to people from marginalized populations who suffer not only from HIV but often from homelessness, substance abuse, and severe mental disorders. Continuum also participates in policy discussions through its involvement in the CARE Council.

At SFAF, he will oversee a budget of \$24 million and a staff of 70 people at an organization that includes a public policy component working at the federal and state levels, and a client load that includes 1,000 people a year through direct services, an additional estimated 3,000 people a year through needle exchange programs, several hundred members of SFAF's support groups, and 60,000 calls annually to the California AIDS hotline.

Cloutier also has been named president of Pangaea, the organization's international effort to fight the global pandemic. Although funded separately – with the exception of 25 percent of SFAF's AIDS Marathon money going to the group – it makes sense for the same person to head both SFAF and Pangaea, said Paul Wisotzky, Pangaea board chair, because of their shared mission – “to end the pandemic and human suffering caused by HIV/AIDS” – and because of the way their work impacts each other.

“We really want our international and domestic work to be synergistic and noncompetitive,” said Wisotzky.

Not everyone is pleased with such an arrangement; longtime AIDS accountability activist Patrick Monette-Shaw, a vocal critic of SFAF, said that “what really needs to be questioned is SFAF's relationship to Pangaea,



Pangaea's Paul Wisotzky

and the millions in money raised to help PLWHA in the Bay Area that SFAF continues to ship to its ‘overseas’ affiliate, Pangaea.”

Such an allegation is one that SFAF continues to call false, pointing out the two groups' separate funding structures, and noting that even with the AIDS Marathon contributions, many of the marathon participants became involved precisely to address AIDS on a global scale.

“Pangaea and the AIDS Marathon have actually had the effect of reaching out to more people and getting them involved in fighting the epidemic,” said Wisotzky.

Cloutier himself is a critic of distorted financial figures; in 2002 he filed a lawsuit on behalf of himself and other AIDS Vaccine Ride participants against the now-defunct Pallotta Teamworks for allegedly misrepresenting the portion of event proceeds that went to medical research. At about the same time, SFAF was severing its ties with Pallotta's AIDS Ride for similar reasons.

But Monette-Shaw also expressed concern – as many HIV/AIDS activists and advocates

have in the past – over the salary paid by SFAF to its executive directors.

“The Chronicle reports Cloutier will start with a \$170,000 salary; given SFAF's historical rate of pay raises, it is likely he will be paid over \$200,000 within two to three years,” said Monette-Shaw.

By the time Christen left her position, she was bringing in \$212,000 total compensation and she was the target of criticism as well as direct actions for much of her tenure at SFAF.

Cloutier said that he has worked with Christen and has a good relationship with her. He is uncertain, he said, whether his leadership at SFAF will be as controversial.

care.”

Title I funding has shifted, he said, from a previous formula around density and cumulative cases, and San Francisco can expect to see a cumulative 21 percent cut to such funding over the next five years.

This has a big impact on smaller organizations like Continuum, which plans to hire an interim executive director and then a permanent replacement for Cloutier, he said, but may begin discussing possible mergers or collaborations to ensure its financial survival.

There are no formal discussions at present to merge Continuum with SFAF, said Cloutier, but many agencies may consider collaborations with one another as funding

effect is to the quality of services clients are getting. SFAF does not have any agenda around this, but I do want to participate as a collaborator in the community with that topic as way to have the conversation.”

Other goals for Cloutier would be to continue SFAF's innovative needle exchange efforts; the project has begun training “secondary exchangers” – people who exchange needles on behalf of others – so that they can take information back to their communities about cleaning needles, treating abscesses, overdosing, and where to get care and services.

And while he said he is still too new to discuss any solid plans for SFAF, Cloutier also would like to see prevention programs expanded to address “causal links” of HIV transmission, “addressing multiple points in the causal chain.”

“If we have an effective campaign against crystal use, for instance, and use of the drug drops by 60 percent, there may be some other drug that comes along. So we need to address why people are engaging in high risk behavior.”

SFAF board members said that while they are very clear about what an executive director cannot do in the position, there is room for some innovation on Cloutier's part.

“He's a visionary,” said McCormick.

Several prominent local and national leaders echoed their pleasure with Cloutier's selection.

San Francisco Supervisor Bevan Dufty praised the decision, calling Cloutier an “outstanding choice.”

“I've worked closely with Mark and am impressed with the quality of services he's had at Continuum,” Dufty told the B.A.R. “He has served a diverse clientele, especially serving individuals affected by HIV from poor backgrounds.”

“I really think he'll bring a new perspective to SFAF,” said Dufty.

U.S. House of Representatives Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) said that SFAF had made “an excellent decision” by hiring Cloutier.

“Mark is a seasoned policy expert and strong advocate on HIV/AIDS issues, both at the national and local level,” said Pelosi. “He has been an effective and innovative leader in San Francisco's HIV/AIDS services network through his work at Continuum, and his Capitol Hill experience will be a valuable asset in our national efforts to improve policy, prevention, and care services for people with HIV/AIDS.”

Cloutier said he sees his new position as a perfect match, and he is “looking forward to reinvigorating the presence of the AIDS Foundation in San Francisco.” ▼

“Pangaea and the AIDS Marathon have actually had the effect of reaching out to more people and getting them involved in fighting the epidemic.”

“I don't know. I'm a different person,” he said. “People already know me in the community.”

Future plans

Any nonprofit executive director knows that in recent years, funding has become a top priority, and organizations have been reacting to governmental cuts by laying off staff, cutting back on services, or both.

But Cloutier believes that such reactive measures may not be necessary if the community can predict and prepare for future funding cuts.

The current formula for allocating Ryan White Title I funding counts people who have had AIDS – not HIV – for a period of 10 years or less, meaning that as care improves and people live longer, “we can't count that,” said Cloutier, and funding becomes jeopardized.

“We are actually being penalized,” he said, “for providing good

continues to be cut.

“We know these cuts are going to happen,” said Cloutier. “But we do have some collective control as a community and can be proactive about its impact.”

What Cloutier would like to see happen is a series of discussions around implementing a standard of care for people with HIV where “we identify what the best treatment strategies are in case management, adherence, housing – the whole basket of services that people with HIV need – and then support organizations and collaborations that can deliver that.”

The goal would be less variation in the treatment delivered citywide, as well as survival of the programs that upheld those standards.

“Otherwise we will just continue to be in this cycle of reacting to cuts, and cutting things 10 percent across the board, without really looking at what the system-wide

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Easter

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worship service takes place at 11 a.m. at the chapel of the Pacific School of Religion, 1798 Scenic Way, in Berkeley. The Reverend Nathan Meckley will be preaching.

MCC of the Redwood Empire in Guerneville will host a Good Friday service at 7 p.m. at the Guerneville Community Church, 14520 Armstrong Road. Sunday's events include a sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. at Redwood Memorial Gardens, a 10 a.m. service at Oddfellows Hall, 16219 First Street, and a 6 p.m. concert featuring contemporary gospel music performed by well-known choral ensembles. For more information call (707) 869-9882. ▼

Senate gears up for fight over judicial appointees

by Lisa Keen

As the controversy around some of President Bush's most conservative judicial nominees continues to swirl, the political forecast might well start predicting a metaphorical tornado – and this one won't land gays somewhere over the rainbow. Some nominees have likened homosexual relations to pedophilia and bestiality, spoken in support of sodomy laws, and worked alongside Jesse Helms.

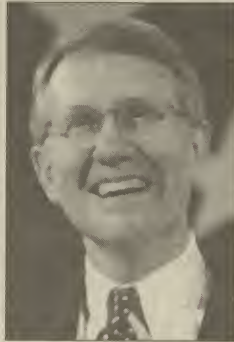
What stands between them and a seat of power on a federal appeals court bench – or the U.S. Supreme Court – are 41 Democrats and a filibuster.

But the Republican majority is threatening to undermine the filibuster in order to ram through the Bush nominees with a simple partisan majority of 55 Republicans. And that threat – countered by a Democratic threat to bring virtually all Senate business to a standstill – has political Washington on edge these days.

It might well have gays on edge, too. The first showdown is expected to come in early April, when the Senate reconvenes following its Easter recess. At that time, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tennessee) has indicated he may bring a nominee to the floor to trigger a Democratic filibuster. A filibuster is a means of delaying a vote on legislation by refusing to end debate – something that takes 60 votes to do. The Republicans don't have 60 votes, but Frist believes he can undercut the filibuster by requesting a ruling from the president of the Senate – Republican Vice President Dick Cheney – that would declare that filibusters cannot be used during consideration of judicial nominations. (Such a ruling would smack of partisanship, given that Republicans were reportedly the first to use filibusters to thwart the judicial nomination of Justice Abe Fortas as chief justice.)

Should Frist and Cheney go that route, Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nevada) has threatened to bring Senate business to a virtual standstill by having Democrats refuse to participate in any actions other than those supporting military troops and national security. That is possible because Senate rules require the unanimous consent of all senators.

Democrats picked up support



Minority Leader Harry Reid

from a most unlikely source this week – conservative columnist George Will. In his March 20 column, Will defended the filibuster as “an instrument for minority assertion.”

“It enables democracy to be more than government-by-adding-machine, more than a mere counter of numbers,” wrote Will. “The filibuster registers intensity, enabling less minorities to slow or stop government. The future will bring Democratic presidents and Senate majorities. How would you react were such a majority about to change Senate rules to prevent you from filibustering to block a nominee likely to construe the equal protection clause as creating a constitutional right to same-sex marriage?”

Democrats are also getting support from gay organizations. Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund was scheduled to announce this week that – for the first time in its history – it is formally opposing a nominee to a court below the U.S. Supreme Court level.

Michael Adams, Lambda's director of education and public affairs, said the first nominee Lambda will announce opposition to is Terrence W. Boyle of North Carolina to the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Boyle, he said, “has a really horrific track record” on the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibits discrimination against people with HIV and other disabilities. A former aide to Jesse Helms and a graduate of the Bob Jones University law school, Boyle is currently the U.S. District Court Judge in Raleigh, North Carolina.

“We've decided to make the

whole battle over judicial independence a major priority for Lambda Legal,” said Adams, “because we see right-wing efforts to stack the courts.” Adams said the group would be launching several efforts to educate and mobilize the gay community in opposition to right-wing nominees.

What nominations on the line are of concern to gays? In addition to Boyle, David M. Smith, HRC vice president of policy, identified William Pryor, the Alabama attorney general, nominated to the 11th Circuit. Pryor wrote a brief in support of the Texas sodomy law during the U.S. Supreme Court deliberation in *Lawrence v. Texas*. In that brief, he said it was reasonable for Texas to conclude that “homosexual sodomy may have severe physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual consequences ... from which Texas' citizens need to be protected.” He said that allowing citizens to engage in sex with the partner of their choice in terms of gender would mean extending such freedom to citizens to engage in prostitution, adultery, pedophilia, necrophilia, bestiality, and incest. His nomination has been successfully filibustered, but he was placed on the bench through a recess appointment. While on the bench, he voted against rehearing an appeal from a gay couple in Florida seeking to adopt a child.

Another nominee who has a bad track record when it comes to gay-related issues is William G. Myers III, nominated to the 9th Circuit (San Francisco). Myers has spoken out in support of the 1986 *Bowers v. Hardwick* decision. He was Legislative Counsel to U.S. Senator Alan Simpson (R-Wyoming) from 1985-89 and assistant attorney general in the senior President Bush's Department of Justice. His nomination was successfully filibustered last year but President Bush resubmitted the nomination in February and the Senate Judiciary Committee voted it out along partisan lines on March 17.

According to the *Washington Post*, Senator Arlen Specter (R-Pennsylvania), chairman of the judiciary committee, plans to select one of the least controversial of Bush's 20 pending federal nominees in hopes of winning over five Democrats to defeat a filibuster. The *Post* said Specter's office indicated Myers would likely be that initial choice. ▼

Wanda Alston

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trait they both shared. He talked of those who had “a sore butt from sitting on the fence, because they didn't know who they were, or what they were, or what they believed in.” That was not Wanda Alston.

“I know that Wanda had a soft side. Of course, I had to leave the Republican Party in order to see her soft side,” Catania said. “She went out of this world fighting, and far too young.”

School board chairman Peggy Cooper Cafritz spoke of Alston's

commitment to create a strong sex education curriculum for the system. “She would say, ‘If we do nothing else for our children, we must educate them so that they may come to know themselves and to take care of themselves,’” Cafritz recalled.

Earline Budd, a local transgender activist, praised Alston as “an advocate for a community that is marginalized, stigmatized, and rarely talked about.” Alston, she said, was pushing for Budd to join the Democratic National Committee. “She saw fit to say, we need to be part of the agenda.”

Valerie Papaya Mann called Alston “a modern day gladiator. She

was just relentless. She stood up for all of us.”

“This woman was amazing, she was amazing in that position” of liaison, said longtime activist Carlene Cheatam. “I don't think many of us know how big her story is ... If Kerry had won, she would have been in the White House.”

“I had my challenges with my sister. But even when I disagreed with her, it was hard to take it personally because she was consistent. She didn't play games,” Cheatam said. “The void that is left is very large ... each of us has to do a little more so that nothing that she started will fail.” ▼



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Gays grapple with crystal meth

by Bob Roehr

Jay Dagenhart became infected with HIV while addicted to meth. His addiction also led him to "losing just about every job that I had during my addiction, being gay-bashed, having a gun pulled on me, declaring bankruptcy, and finally becoming homeless; all because of my crystal meth addiction."

His was the most riveting presentation heard at a session on crystal methamphetamine at the spring meeting of the National Coalition for LGBT Health in Washington, DC on March 14.

Dagenhart and a group of other recovering addicts formed the Philadelphia Crystal Meth Task Force (www.meth2death.org). "We are tired of pushing this under the rug and not discussing it, so we are going to talk about it in very bold ways, to change the conversation," he said.

The goal is to change community values so that using crystal and having unprotected sex or being up all night dancing is seen as inappropriate behavior. "We are saying, 'Do you realize how addictive this is?'" It is based on a model developed in New York City.

He recently went to a bathroom in Philadelphia. When he disclosed his HIV status to men there, the first five turned and walked away. "The only person who was willing to have sex with me was the crystal meth addict," Dagenhart said.

"This is no mystery," he added. "The drug dealers in our community are setting up shop in bathrooms. They check into a room, they bring their supply, and they can feed their sexual addiction, which stems from their crystal meth addiction."

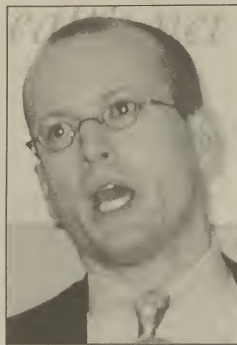
"They can sell large quantities of the drug without fear of getting caught because who from the DEA or police are going to come into the bathroom—walk around in a towel with the fear of playing grab ass—and crack down on the drug problem within our community?"

"As gay men we sexualize everything; we shake hands with our penis. If we can learn to educate one another and bring the problem into the light we might have a little more success in dealing with it," Dagenhart said.

The scope

Some 15 percent of HIV-positive and -negative gay men had used meth during their most recent sexual encounter, third only to alcohol and marijuana, according to a 2004 survey in San Francisco, said Gordon Mansergh. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention researcher summarized some of the key findings presented at two-day meeting on gay men and crystal meth use that the CDC held in mid-January.

Meth users in San Francisco were "1.7 times more likely to test



Recovering addict Jay Dagenhart

positive for gonorrhea, nearly two times more likely to have chlamydia, and nearly five times more likely to have syphilis," Mansergh said.

In New York City, HIV-positive men were nearly three times more likely to report meth use during their most recent anal sex encounter.

When pressed as to why meth, which is only one of many substances of abuse, is getting all of the attention, Mansergh acknowledged, "It's the drug de jour, in some ways. Meth is something that we've seen an increased wave coming in the last 10 to 15 years. It becomes a community consciousness because of the movement... because of the rapid increase, but also because of the rapid devastation."

"One of the recommendations coming out of the conference in January is that we don't focus exclusively on meth, that we focus on all substance abuse, because of the

issue of somebody moving to another substance," he added. That report will be released shortly.

"I think the risks around alcohol abuse are better known. I wonder how many young gay men may get in over their heads before they realize what their risks are with meth," said David Haltiwanger with the Chase-Brexton Clinic in Baltimore.

"Part of what we need to do is rebrand crystal meth so that it is not considered just another innocent party drug, but a much more dangerous drug. There are casual drug users who would never touch heroin; it has a brand that they are not going to go near," said Haltiwanger. Part of the solution, he said, is to "move crystal across that line so that people don't think of it as something that you can casually pick up and put down."

"How come, when you interview straight men, they don't put enhancing sex as one of the top reasons for using meth?" asked Barbara Warren with the New York City LGBT Center.

"I think that has got less to do with whether or not they use it for sex and a heck of a lot more with the cultural and political context that gay men live in versus straight men," said Haltiwanger. "I think that the reason that this behavior is still such a challenge to gay and bisexual men is linked to the absolute hostility and demonization of gay sexuality in our society. Using a drug like this and engaging in these kinds of behaviors is a way to kind of forget that."

Warren urged "compassion for the struggle that lots of folks in our community are undergoing around the political context that we are dealing with right now," as

well as the "25 years of dealing with an epidemic that not only impedes your freedom of expression around your sexuality. ... The challenge is to maintain compassion within our own community and not let this issue vilify or demonize men who have sex with men."

"We need to understand the social context within which people in our community are using crystal meth, and the meaning that people are assigning to that use," added David Acosta, coordinator of HIV/AIDS prevention programs for the city of Philadelphia.

"Not everyone is using it to have lots of wild sex," Acosta said. "If you are a youth who is homeless and trading sex for survival, crystal meth might keep you from feeling hungry and needing a place to sleep. ... It's really important for us to tone down the rhetoric and put it into perspective."

Treatment specialist Phil McCabe noted that many people continue to use meth as a self-medication for depression, and one of the physical symptoms of stopping meth use is long-term depression as the body recovers. He does not believe the community is prepared to deal with that. While the focus today is on prevention, "we have to balance that with treatment" to help people stop using meth. ▼

A transcript and webcast of the session are available from the Kaiser Family Foundation at: www.kaisernetwork.org/health_cast/health_index.cfm?display=detail&hc=1376

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AIDS audit

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processes and the organization and delivery of program services."

AIDS Office director Jimmy Loyce could not be reached for comment. Nancy J. McGinness, director of the office of financial policy and oversight at the Health Resources and Services Administration, is in negotiations with the AIDS Office on if, and how much money, it will be required to reimburse.

"They are still negotiating with the agency on how this money and other recommendations will be handled," said Judy Holtz, a spokeswoman for the inspector general's Office of Audit Services. "We have not officially gotten word back on either one. We do understand discussions are ongoing between HRSA, the agency, and the contractors."

If the AIDS Office is not successful in refuting the audits' recommendations, it could be required to pay back the money or the funds would be offset through future grant money, said Holtz.

"Or they could appeal that and it would just be written off," Holtz said.

As for the findings of the Baker Places audit—whose final report was released August 27, 2004—the money dispute centers around how long the agency should have provided "short-term" housing services to its clients. The auditors claim that the agency "extended housing services beyond a reasonable limit." In their investigation, they found that three clients received housing for more than eight years and seven others for more than four years.

As such, they found that "the AIDS Office did not establish a reasonable time limit for housing assistance and did not develop a strategy for ensuring clients could make the transition to a stable living situation." They also raised concerns about the AIDS Office's fiscal monitoring of the contract.

Jonathan Vernick, Baker Places executive director, did not return a call seeking comment by press time.

In its response to the audit's findings, the AIDS Office not only states that Baker Places provided services "consistent with the CARE Act" but that it "received adequate program monitoring." Office officials also called the auditor's criticisms of some client's length of stay as "unreasonable," bluntly calling the inspectors' decision to define short-term as meaning only one and half years "an arbitrary standard."

They also point to language in the contract that specified that clients' length of stay could be "as brief as six months or can be extended as long as necessary." Imposing an arbitrary time limit on clients "may only serve to destabilize clients and push clients out of housing and into homelessness," local officials stated in their response.

While the AIDS Office agreed that Baker Places made "a small mistake" in some of its documentation and billing, the officials nonetheless do not believe they merit paying back up to \$298,000.

In the case of Continuum, the auditors—whose report was released February 9 of this year—found that the agency could not provide the needed documentation to support whether programs and services it billed the AIDS Office for were actually provided. Specifi-

cally, the auditors raised questions about primary care services and food packs given to clients.

However, Continuum officials contend the audit findings are due simply to a missing box of paperwork.

"It is a little embarrassing but it is as simple as that, actually. Really, what happened is we moved our clinic. There was some confusion where the box was. We finally found the box. It just took us a while to find it," said Continuum Executive Director Mark Cloutier, who was tapped this week to lead the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

Cloutier was not at the helm of Continuum during the time of the contract and he stressed that his comments should not be viewed as his predecessor having done anything wrong.

"There never was an issue of misuse of funding. I think it is

very clear in the audit. It was just a matter of having the particular matter of documentation," he said. "We have remedied it. We have instituted better document management inside the organization. We have gone through a set of monitoring processes by the AIDS Office and it has not been a problem since."

In its response to the audit findings, the AIDS Office acknowledged that not all the proper records were available "at the time of the audit" but now that the records are available, there is no need to reimburse any funds.

Though it did concede that "Continuum should implement measures to track and safeguard documents during moving" and that it "should improve its (own) program monitoring to ensure that Continuum provides the expected program services." ▼

Retrovirus

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risk of heart attack from them.

A formulation of fish oils rich in omega-3 fatty acids, sold in France under the name Maxepa, has been shown to reduce low density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol and triglyceride levels in otherwise healthy people. Now a trial with patients on HAART showed a 26 percent reduction of triglyceride levels after eight weeks on Maxepa. The triglyceride levels returned to normal in 22 percent of the patients.

While the dosing is an inconvenient two pills taken three times a day, it does have the advantage of having no interactions with other medications.

Investigators from France presented the cases of 12 gay men recently infected with hepatitis C, presumably through unprotected anal sex. It has long been thought that HCV theoretically can be transmitted sexually but only rarely.

One unusual point is that 10 of the 12 were infected with genotype 4, a fairly rare variant of HCV in France. The genetic sequences of the virus were closely related, suggesting a common source of infection. The researchers do not know if there is something unique about genotype 4 that makes it more readily transmitted through sex, or if the infecting partner might have had an extremely high viral load and other factors that might facilitate transmission. ▼

New treatment recommended for hep B

by Bob Roehr

There will soon be another option for treating hepatitis B. A Food and Drug Administration advisory committee, meeting near Washington, D.C. on March 11, unanimously and enthusiastically recommended approval of the drug entecavir (Baraclude) to treat the infection. Final approval is likely by the end of the month.

Hepatitis B (HBV) is a virus that affects the liver. Some 1.2 million Americans have HBV, though the numbers are down sharply since a preventive vaccine was introduced in 1982. About 5,000 people a year die from the infection,

primarily from liver cancer and liver failure. HBV is easily transmitted through sex and blood exposure, the same routes as HIV, so coinfection with both viruses is common.

"Entecavir represents an important therapeutic advance," said Elliott Sigal, a researcher with Bristol-Myers Squibb, the company that developed the drug. He said it offers "superior suppression of viral replication, a favorable resistance profile, and improvement in both liver histology and biochemical abnormalities."

The drug suppresses HBV below the level of detection in about 90 percent of the patients who have not been treated before, compared with about 70 percent

for those treated with lamivudine, the only other drug approved for treating HBV at the time the trials started. Side effects are minimal and resistance to the drug appears to be very slow to develop.

Entecavir is a nucleoside analogue, similar to many drugs used to treat HIV. But it is extremely focused in targeting HBV and has no activity against other hepatitis viruses or HIV. This makes it possible to use low doses of the drug and it minimizes issues of cross resistance with other infections.

One concern is that mice that were given large doses of the drug developed tumors in their lungs, but other animals did not. The company and the FDA believe the effect occurs only in that animal

species.

FDA researcher Debra B. Birnkrant said the situation is unusual because the treatment may have a potential to increase the risk of cancer that cannot as yet be quantified in humans, while the disease itself has been labeled a carcinogenic. She said, "The animal data needs to be interpreted in the context of the clinical data, the severity of the disease, and available treatment options."

FDA pharmacologist James Farrelly said the entire class of nucleoside analogues is considered carcinogenic; it is common to find increased rates of cancer in many types of tissue of many animal species when they are given very large doses of nucleosides. How-

ever, that has not carried over into humans at the lower doses of the drug that they take, as demonstrated by the experience in treating HIV.

Farrelly said it is possible that heavy smokers might face an increased occurrence of lung cancer if they go on this drug. The company and the FDA are creating long-term trials to monitor that possibility.

For Brett Grodeck, a patient representative on the advisory committee, it was an easy call. He placed the hypothetical risk of cancer from entecavir within the context of "the very real threat of liver cancer" from his hepatitis B, and came down squarely on the side of approval of the drug. ▼

Library

◀ page 1

quested to see the material could gain access to Shilt's papers, most library users remained unaware of its existence. Until now.

"This exhibit will open the floodgates," said Jim Van Buskirk, the Hormel Center's program manager.

The Hormel Center is set to unveil the Shilt's collection as well as a trove of gay and lesbian historical treasures this June in a show it is calling "Out at the Library." The library is publishing a 144-page color catalogue to go with the exhibit, which will be its first-ever publication.

The show will kick off the Hormel Center's 10th anniversary celebration in 2006, and, thanks to a \$250,000 fundraising drive that is nearly complete, will travel to other cities across the nation after it closes in San Francisco this October.

Hormel Center archivist Tim Wilson said what he likes most about Shilt's diary entry is how it shows that "yes, he is a reporter but he is as much his own person."

Along with Shilt's diary and other papers, the Hormel Center is moving its entire collection of hundreds of gay pulp novels out of an underground storage area and into public view. The novels will be encased in glass to preserve and protect their fragile pages.

Also expected to be on display is Milk's 1978 City Hall datebook. While the day planner will be opened to the day Milk was assassinated during the show, Hormel Center staff, in a sneak peak for the *Bay Area Reporter*, opened it to Friday, April 7. On that day Milk met with Jim Rivaldo at 9:45 a.m., had a 10 a.m. Coastal Commission meeting and for the rest of the day was at "the ball game."

"It is fascinating to see his handwriting over the pages," said Wilson. "It is scary to look at things, to look at things coming up weeks prior to his being assassinated."

The archival collection is named after James Hormel, the first openly gay man to be a U.S. ambassador, who made a gift to the library to open the center. The money generated by the Hormel endowment pays for acquisitions, the microfilming of gay publications such as the *B.A.R.*, and for various public events the center hosts.

Visitors to the Main Library who make their way to the Hormel Center reading room on the third floor may fail to realize the depth of the library's holdings. The circular reading room is lined

with gay novels and LGBT works, but it is "the tip of the iceberg," said Van Buskirk.

Van Buskirk toiled behind the scenes for four years to prepare the center's opening. In 1996, Wilson came on board to assist in processing the center's archival material and work with researchers and library users who come to access the Hormel Center's materials.

Along with the pulp paperback collection, there is a video and film collection and a newspaper collection where gay papers are kept on microfilm. Researchers from around the world have used the Hormel Center's archival material, which is accessed by first visiting the Main Library's History Center.

"The collection is under special security," explained Van Buskirk. "We want to ensure all the material stays where it is supposed to and undamaged."

The fear of losing irreplaceable pieces of the archive is born out of an incident in 2000 where a book slasher damaged nearly 200 books that were part of the Hormel Center's collection.

"The book slasher was not in the reading room itself but throughout the library's stacks," said Van Buskirk.

The Shilt's collection is indicative of the time-consuming process it can take for archivists to sort through what was donated and ready it for public access.

"The Randy Shilt's collection was incredibly labor intensive. Randy's stuff was a big mess. The rubber bands melted into glue and the paper clips were rusting," Van Buskirk said.

Adding to the time constraints is the fact that Wilson varies his workweek between sorting through the archival material, manning the desk in the history center, and helping curators find material for shows.

"Tim spends three hours a day working on the research desk. Also if I want to curate an exhibit the first person I call is Tim," said Van Buskirk. "We get a small collection done then go back to this. We are working on collections all the time."

The Hormel Center's backlog came under criticism this year from Peter Warfield, executive director of the Library Users Association, who wrote a piece for the *beyondchron* Web site. In it, Warfield charged that the material donated by Shilt's, the gay rights pioneer Harry Hay, and Milk's aide Dick Pabich were "linguishing" because they had yet to be processed.

"It's a matter of priorities, and the library should be focusing on

basics like making all materials accessible and cataloging them," wrote Warfield in the piece.

While those items not yet archived do not show up in the Hormel Center's online catalogue, they are listed among the center's holdings inside the catalogue kept at the history center.

"They are not on the Web site because we don't want to give people false hope. They come from across the country and we don't want to say that it hasn't been processed," said Van Buskirk. "Even though the collection is not fully open to researchers, we make every effort to go through our archives to find things. We don't say 'Not open. Come back in a year.' Tim works with these researchers. To say it is not available

is not true."

As for how large of a backlog the Hormel Center has with the archives not yet processed, Wilson said he couldn't begin to estimate. At some institutions, it can take as long as 30 years for archivists to ready the material for public review.

"When people stop giving things that will be the day," he begins to catch up, Wilson joked.

That day, though, is not likely to come soon. The Hormel Center is constantly receiving items, whether they are donated by people cleaning out their closets or bequeathed by LGBT leaders, activists, and literary lions. And the time it takes to sift through the donations depends on how they are presented to the center.

"Some people are very organized. With others, it feels like someone took a desk, put a box beneath it and swept it all in," said Wilson. "A friend cleaning up another person's house can't make a distinction between things. One of the things of course, is as material comes in we gauge how much has to be dealt with and how significant is that person's life."

In the instance of the center's Harry Hay collection, Van Buskirk said the material came in "often in drips and drabs." Before Hay's death, friends helped sneak boxes of the gay pioneer's papers to the Hormel Center.

"Friends would take Harry out to lunch and someone would go over to get the boxes off his porch," said Van Buskirk. ▼

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Understanding steroids

by Aaron J. Cohen

Steroids are white hot right now. They are in the glare of the media spotlight, with alleged use by professional athletes as well as high school students involved in sports. Last week, Major League Baseball came under fire at a congressional hearing, and some parents testified at the hearing that their teenage boys committed suicide after suddenly stopping their steroid use. But there are legitimate, medically supervised uses for the drugs, particularly for people living with HIV/AIDS.

One of the major health risks associated with HIV/AIDS is the loss of lean body mass (LBM). Loss of LBM is associated with a quicker progression from HIV to AIDS. To fight this, physicians are increasingly prescribing anabolic steroids as part of an overall treatment plan to halt the loss and regain LBM. Steroids, which are a specific type of hormone, may be anabolic or anabolic-androgenic. Anabolic refers to the ability to build muscle, whereas androgenic refers to a steroid's ability to increase male secondary sexual characteristics, such as hair growth, sex drive, as well as mood and appetite. Most steroids are synthetic (man-made) copies of the naturally occurring hormone called testosterone that is produced primarily in the testes in males and in the ovaries in females. After testosterone is secret-

ed into the bloodstream, 96 percent to 98 percent is bound to proteins called albumin and globulin.

The 2 percent to 4 percent not bound to plasma proteins is known as "free testosterone" and is thought to represent the biologically active fraction of the hormone; in other words, the amount that is capable of interacting with cells to cause physiological changes. The normal level for men is 200 to over 1200 ng./dl. and from 15 to 70 ng./dl. for women. Much of the recent research suggests that people living with HIV should be in the upper range of normal.

Dr. Jon Kaiser, author of *Healing HIV*, suggests that for peak health, individuals with HIV should be in optimal ranges of 500 to 1000 ng./dl. of total testosterone levels for men, and 50 to 100 ng./dl. of total testosterone levels for women.

Because of their widespread use by professional athletes and bodybuilders, where they may provide an unfair advantage, anabolic steroids were banned in the U.S. for general public use in 1990. This act made anabolic steroids available by prescription only to people with justifiable health problems.

Anabolic steroids work by binding to receptors in muscle tissue cells where they instruct the

body to increase the production of proteins that make up muscle. However, their effectiveness is greatly enhanced through a proper diet high in protein (one or more grams of protein per pound of bodyweight per day), and regular (weight-bearing) exercise (one hour, three to four times a week). The use of steroids alone without modifying one's diet

or increasing activity rarely leads to anything more than a small increase in LBM.

Potential side effects

Anabolic steroids can be taken orally, by injection, or in creams or gels.

Most synthetic steroids are specially designed to be anabolic and increase muscle mass without causing androgenic side effects. Nonetheless, regular use of synthetic steroids may still cause liver toxicity.

Naturally occurring testosterone is rapidly cleared by the liver and doesn't circulate in the body long enough to be useful as a treatment. Injectable testosterone formulations are designed to have longer half-lives than naturally occurring testosterone and are less liver toxic than the oral formulations. Steroids may be taken orally or injected directly into muscle tissue. Oral synthetic forms of testosterone are cleared more slowly by the liver, particularly those steroids that contain a chemical grouping called 17-alkyl. However, if you have any history of diabetes or liver problems, you should not attempt to use anabolic steroids.

The more androgenic a steroid is, the greater the risk of side effects in addition to liver toxicity. Repeated, regular use of high doses of androgenic steroids can cause:

- An increase in blood pressure and cholesterol levels.
- Acne, particularly on the back and shoulders.
- Loss of hair on one's head and an increase in body hair.
- Possible erectile dysfunction, and impotence, even though sexual desire is increased.
- The development of breasts (gynecomastia), a condition that is generally irreversible and requiring plastic surgery to remove them.
- Atrophy or shrinkage of the testicles.

Although most synthetic anabolic steroids are designed to min-

imize androgenic side effects, most should be taken in cycles of weeks or months (referred to as "cycling"), rather than continuously, as a further precaution to reduce the risk of these side effects.

Cycling involves taking multiple doses of steroids over a specific period of time, usually every six to eight weeks, stopping for a period and then starting again. In addition, users often combine several different types of steroids to maximize their effectiveness (referred to as "stacking").

However, if you are taking testosterone as a supplement because your own, naturally occurring level is too low (hypogonadism), it is meant to be taken continuously and not cycled.

Here are a few supplements that can help to protect the liver when taking anabolic steroids or any liver-toxic drug (including HIV medications): silymarin (milk thistle), evening primrose oil, alpha lipoic acid, N-acetyl cysteine, glutamine powder, Omega 3 fatty acids, and a product called Liverite.

Human growth hormone

Because of its reputation as a powerful steroid, the human growth hormone Serostim deserves special mention in this column. Serostim is a drug that has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of AIDS-related wasting syndrome and weight loss. It is also being studied in clinical trials for the treatment of lipodystrophy, a side effect of anti-HIV drug therapy that involves both the loss and deposit of fat tissue from specific areas of the body. HGH may also work as an immune-based therapy by helping the thymus gland to produce new T-cells.

However, despite its hype and great expense, HGH has not been shown to be particularly anabolic.

Finally, it should be stated, unequivocally that oral growth hor-

mones and growth hormone "boosters" simply do not work. Though these products generally cost significantly less than Serostim, there is no evidence that these products are effective, and in fact may be harmful.

For more information on the HIV/AIDS and the use of steroids, I would refer readers to the following Web site: www.medibol-ics.com/power.html

This column is not intended to treat or diagnose any conditions. It is meant solely to provide information on topics of interest to the community. Please address any questions regarding your own condition(s) or treatment(s) to your own physician or other health care practitioner. ▼

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Guest Opinion

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ples; Massachusetts is, after all, one of the most Catholic states in the country.

We choose to stay, drawn by the leadership roles that the Catholic Church takes in these areas of social justice, spiritual life and development, educational equality, and works of charity. This is our church, too, not just the hierarchy's. We feel a sense of loss when our church turns away from its LGBT members and we feel a need for change that is only increased by these recent negative statements.

However committed we remain to change, over the years we have realized that the best chance of success comes from multiple forces working simultaneously. This work needs to be done inside, on the periphery, and outside the institution. LGBT Catholics in mainstream Catholic parishes, in organizations such as Dignity, and who are active in other faith traditions or non-religious settings can all help cause the necessary shift to compassionate, supportive, directive, and effective pastoral care. Dignity San Francisco, and our parent organization, Dignity U.S.A., has been an advocate for LGBT Catholics for over 33 years. We gather weekly to celebrate liturgy, provide prayerful witness locally at our archdiocese and nationally at bishop's conferences

and conventions, perform works of charity such as outreach to the homeless, and fundraising for a variety of causes from Marty's Place AIDS Hospice to legal rights organizations and underfunded schools.

This is the challenge of the Eastertide, a season of hope and radical change for Christian peoples (after all, what could be a more radical transformation for believers than a resurrection from death to life?). If you are a spiritual person, we encourage you to support the many movements for change in Roman Catholicism and other churches as they struggle with equality issues for LGBT members. If you're not a spiritual person, seek to understand and respect the needs of your spiritual friends and neighbors, just as spiritual people should understand and respect those whose lives are secular. We remain optimistic that change is possible, and somehow irresistible by human hierarchies, whether spiritual or secular, and plan to keep working on that transformation, for ourselves and for our church. ▼

John Brown and Joe Curtin are San Francisco residents and former co-chairs of Dignity San Francisco, an organization of LGBT Catholics, families, and friends. You can learn more about Dignity at www.dignitysanfrancisco.org, or by calling (415) 681-2491.

OBITUARIES

Hans Von Braun
April 1944 — February 2005

Werner Hans Von Braun, pioneer in Information Technology Security & Auditing Systems and founder of Von Braun & Associates, Auditing and Security Systems Consulting, died Sunday, Feb-

ruary 13 at his home in Point Arena, California, of liver cancer after a brief illness.

Hans is survived by his domestic partner of nine years, Glen Kleinheksel, his son Richard of Mesa, Arizona, and two grandchildren, Sophia and Joshua. Born in Berlin, Germany in 1944, then raised in Norfolk, Virginia, Hans moved to the Bay Area in the 1970s and became a leading figure in the development of auditing and security systems. He worked for Amdahl Corporation and Hewlett Packard as Manager of Information Security. He was a founding member of the Silicon Valley Chapter of Information Systems Audit & Control Association; and was president of the San Francisco chapter of Information Systems Security Association. Hans was a Certified Data Processor, Certified In-

formation Systems Auditor, and Certified Information Systems Security Professional. Hans created the first Gay Men's Bulletin Board service in San Francisco, organized City Campers, and served on numerous boards of directors.

A memorial will be held on Friday, April 1 at 2 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1187 Franklin Street (at Geary Blvd.), San Francisco.

Kok-Hiong (Sam) Lee
1971 — 2004

Sam Lee moved on to a better place this past December 2004. He originally came to San Francisco in 1994, by way of Canada. Sam was born and raised in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia where he developed

a fondness for water polo and science. At the age of 18, he moved to Winnipeg, where he earned his B.Sc. (Hons.) in Biochemistry from the University of Manitoba and made lifelong friendships which endured to the very end. Sam subsequently moved to San Francisco and continued his studies at the University of San Francisco.

Sam enjoyed San Francisco and all it

had to offer. He loved rollerblading in Golden Gate Park, cooking truly decadent desserts, hiking, camping, building furniture, and making Christmas tree decorations. He was also obsessed with figure skating, spending entire Saturdays watching his favorite skaters on TV, and often taking to the ice himself.

Sam was the most extraordinary person: Funny, brilliant, sweet, sexy, stubborn, charming, fearless, delightful and at times utterly exasperating. He was his own man. Sam touched many of us deeply, as boyfriend, friend, and confidant. His leaving so soon and too early has affected us more than we can possibly say. Tom, John, Mark, Kim, Chip and his co-workers and family in Malaysia love him and will miss him as long as we live. Sweet journey, you beautiful man.

Robin Tichane

Robin Tichane, who adopted San Francisco for his art and art conservator careers, died Sunday, February 27th in New York from complications of AIDS. He was one of the longest AIDS survivors in the United States. He resided in San Francisco from 1976 to 1996 before he returned to New York City.

Robin was an expert Art Conservator and Art Historian who had a fundamental expertise in chemistry. With a



Master's in Art History from Columbia University and a Certificate in Conservation from New York University, he ultimately became a conservator in private practice in San Francisco and later an Assistant Con-

servator at the Asian Art Museum. He was awarded Honorary Fellow status by the Bay Area Art Conservation Guild in 1990.

After retiring from the art conservation field in 1988, Mr. Tichane brought his talent and energies to the awareness of AIDS as "the world's pre-eminent post modern disease." He spoke widely on the subject of AIDS in the context of a series of 12 woodblock prints he created entitled AIDS' Dark Terrain: Twelve Stations from a Yankee Pilgrim. He viewed AIDS as a passage not of external

appearance, but rather as an internal development and exploration of self. Mr. Tichane's artworks can be found in over 100 museums and archives in the United States and abroad. In addition, he participated in over 24 solo and juried exhibitions from 1991-1996.

He is survived by his parents, Drs. Margene and Robert Tichane of Painted Post, New York, his brother David Tichane of Sunnyvale, and sister Eileen Tichane of Sunnyvale, as well as his circle of friends around the world.

A "Release Ritual" for Mr. Tichane is scheduled for 6:30-8:30pm tonight, Thursday, March 24 at the San Francisco Zen Center, Victorian House Conf. Center, 308 Page St. near Laguna. RSVP to: robtichane@aol.com

Donations, in lieu of flowers, for AIDS awareness, or Asian Art Museum, or Art Conservation would be greatly appreciated.

Further information can also be found at www.robtichane.com.

Imperial Court's 'Queen Mother' Gaston 'Greta' Grass dies at 70

by Cynthia Laird

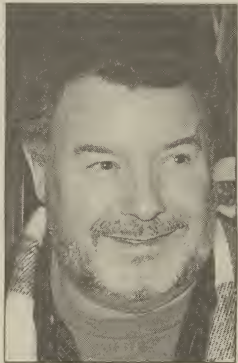
Gaston Lee "Greta" Grass, who was "Queen Mother" of all California in the Imperial Court system, died suddenly March 12 at his home in San Francisco. He was 70.

Ken Allison, a longtime friend, said the cause of death was not known.

Mr. Grass, who was known widely in the community as Greta, was elected Queen Mother V in 1977 and became a member of the Imperial Court of San Francisco, holding the office of secretary to the Council of Empresses. He opened many of the coronation ceremonies with his stirring rendition of "God Bless America."

Mr. Grass was born and raised in San Pedro, California on August 15, 1934. He later moved to Detroit, where he joined the Marines and eventually became a Navy jet pilot.

After his military service, he settled in San Francisco in the late 1950s and began his lifelong career as a bartender. Over the next 50 years he became known as Greta Grass, bartender extraordinaire, working in such bars as the Jumping Frog, Rick's Cavalcade,



Gaston Lee "Greta" Grass

the Missouri Mule, the Cinch, the Kokpit, and numerous others. He retired from the bar business at the Hob Nob in 2002.

It was during that time that Greta became involved with and part of the Tavern Guild, serving as its treasurer in the mid-1970s. Friends said he was proud of his work with the guild.

"Greta was a delight to know and loved by so many," Allison said. "His humor and wit were endless. He was never at a loss for

words and entertained endlessly, whether it was behind the bar or sitting with friends at the bar."

Bay Area Reporter columnist Dick "Sweet Lips" Walters, said he knew Greta for almost 40 years.

"He had a great sense of humor and I'll miss him," Walters said this week.

Greta, who was known to enjoy a cocktail, or two or three, was also a trivia buff, and was often called upon to answer questions from bar patrons and others. He was especially good at answering anything about music, movies, and actors, particularly the older ones, friends said.

Greta will be missed by his many friends and customers.

He is survived by his son Butch, daughter-in-law Candice, and grandson Gregory, whom he adored, never letting an occasion go by where he would show friends a letter or latest picture. Mr. Grass is also survived by a brother Chuck, and was preceded in death by his parents and sister Louise.

Mr. Grass's ashes will be buried at the National Cemetery in Colma, California. There will be a celebration of life at the Cinch bar, 1723 Polk Street, on Saturday, April 2 from 1 to 4 p.m. ▼

Proposed patent law change in India could affect AIDS treatment access

by John Iversen

The Indian Parliament is presently tackling the country's implementation of the World Trade Organization's agreement regulating patents on medicines. Health activists and people with AIDS worldwide are urging Indian decision makers to ensure that AIDS patients in developing countries will continue to have access to affordable medicines.

Proposed amendments to India's Patent Act drastically restrict — perhaps even prevent — the production and supply of vital therapies by Indian pharmaceutical companies to other developing countries, according to Doctors Without Borders.

Asia Russell, director of inter-

national policy for HealthGAP, explained that the proposed amendments would prohibit Indian generic companies from producing generic versions of brand name drugs patented after 1995. This would severely limit availability of second line therapies that include the more advanced treatments such as protease inhibitors. It would also threaten production in such countries as Brazil, which relies heavily on importation of Indian raw materials. In 2001, India fought for language in the WTO guidelines that stated the public health emergencies should supersede patent rights. This latest move is a very troubling reversal of public policy, activists say, and there were demonstrations throughout India and Africa on February 26 when Par-

liament went into session. There have also been demonstrations at the Indian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Russell blames the large multinational pharmaceutical firms and other industries for sending the message that India does not embrace Western standards on pharmaceuticals. She said it seems like a cold-hearted calculation on the part of India's Commerce Ministry to seek trade preferences with industrialized countries by honoring U.S. drug patents while ignoring the fact that 5.5 million Indians have HIV and a vast majority will not be able to afford the accompanying U.S. drug prices that are 4 to 28 times more than generic prices. Many civil society groups in India have asked who will be around to

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McSteroids

by Jim Provenzano

The McSteroid hearings having gotten under way, and Jose Canseco's tell-all book, *Juiced*, having made the gossip rounds (but not my free review copy in-box, darnit), let's summate this most interesting vein of scandals in professional sports, shall we?

In his book, Canseco describes being cloistered in a men's room stall as Mark McGwire drops his pants and offers his enormously muscular ass. That's probably the most quoted passage in Canseco's no-doubt ghost-written tome, in which the recently house-arrested former baseball star proves the theory true, that all those big muscles do come in a bottle, and a syringe.

Unfortunately, for fantasy baseball fans, a syringe is allegedly the only thing Canseco inserted

into Big Mac's big butt. Pity.

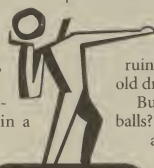
The beefy redhead McGwire, it's now pretty much understood, beat out Sammy Sosa for a few home runs (before Barry Bonds outdid them both) not with athletic skill, but better living through chemistry.

Oh, for the days when a player like Mickey Mantle only ruined his health with plain old drinking and smoking.

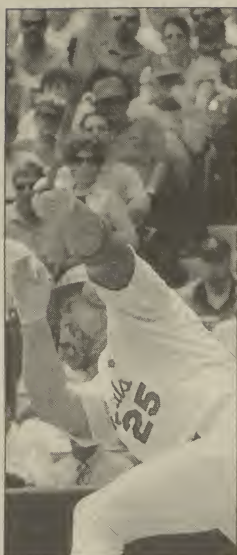
But what about Bonds's balls? The San Francisco Giants player even has his ex-girlfriend ratting him out about alleged substance abuse, but Bonds has defended himself, informally, if

not before the McCarthyesque politicians who know a good scapegoat when they bet on one. Bonds's peeps say the ex is an extortionist. (Hmm. Has she met diminutive yet cute race car driver Jeff Gordon's ex-wife?)

Although the McSteroid honchos have so far merely "invited"



Sports Complex



Mark "McJuiced" McGuire

pro athletes to the hearings, they obviously are swooping in for our local star player. Testimony has been leaked from the BALCO grand jury that Bonds and Gary Sheffield admitted to taking a BALCO-created performance enhancing substance called "the clear" although they professed not to have known what it was. Perhaps just an extra smoothie ingredient?

In a March 5 *San Francisco Chronicle* article, Bonds is quoted as saying that neither his hat size nor his testicles have changed size, "and (they) work just the same as they always have."



Mark McGwire offers an easy target for Jose Canseco's injections.

Did Bonds bring up this most interesting fact unrequested, or do mainstream sports reporters often ask major league athletes about their genitalia dimensions? This is a question I've never asked any of the hundreds of GLBT athletes I've interviewed over the past eight years. Am I missing out on something, or some inside "Jeff Gannon"-esque angle? What have I been doing lugging around these darn ethics all these years?

Bonds also compared using steroids to ocular impairments. "You can't see, things look fuzzy, so what do you do? You go get glasses. Is that cheating? You get glasses so you can see, so you can do your job. What's the difference?"

Gee, I never saw it that way, ever. But maybe if I got closer, say, in the locker room, and got a more intimate interview with some players, I'd happily share the details.

But seriously, there are worse things one can do, says the home run king, such as cocaine, heroin "and those types of things." Other baseball players have a rich history of ingesting such substances, such as Darrel Strawberry and the recently departed Ken Caminiti.

But not Bonds. No, sir. Not cocaine. That's presidential material.

Or gubernatorial material? Statewide, as schools are getting gutted of funding, our own formerly athletic Governor Schwarzenegger recently admitted to using steroids and those type of things. Quelle surprise. He's been photographed smoking pot — years ago — but still. That would be a good thing, if he weren't hassling medical marijuana stores statewide. But we're supposed to like our Guv, who calls us girlymen one day, sucks up to the Bush cabal another, then opposes their constitutional amendment scare tactic.

Although some may be surprised about Arnold's juicy past, it was no surprise when federal narcotics agents showed up at the Arnold Classic (a bodybuilding event named after Governor Schwarzenegger) last year in Columbus, Ohio to subpoena a few competitors and "supplement suppliers" in a steroid distribution investigation that resulted in indictments in Des Moines, Iowa. Our local BALCO scandal's testicles, er, tentacles, now go all the way from the heartland to Athens, Greece, where the 2004 Olympics torchbearers took a dive for their being juiced. Ye gods.

And who is standing up for truth, justice, and a drug-free Amurka? Well, these days, what with their whose journalists and "caught-on-video" SM sessions overseas, the Republican Party's looking like an all-night orgy at Apollo's Retreat (a famous 1970s Manhattan bathhouse where — shocker! — straight people cavorted!).

But as the governors here and abroad continue to use such issues as perfect foils for keeping our gullible minds distracted from other apparently less important problems like global war and economic disasters, and more focused on what Msrs. Canseco and McGwire do, or did, in the semi-privacy of a men's room stall, Mr. Bonds does provide another tidbit of advice.

"We need to turn the page," he told the *Chronicle*. "We need to forget about the past and let us play the game. We're entertainers. Let us entertain."

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EVENTS

Ballpark outings

Apologies from behind (needle-free) to any Giants fans who may have been offended by this week's column. I've enjoyed every game I've attended (despite missing Armando Rios). PacBell, er, SBC Park is a great addition to our great city. Also, the San Francisco Giants, as many know, started Until There's a Cure Day AIDS fundraisers way back in 1994.

Now, thanks to smart community folks Carl Stein and Jeff Ward, who got the first LGBT event started last year, the Giants have a second and third LGBT event planned for May 9 and August 3.

"Building on the success of the first LGBT Night Out in 2004, the Giants are proud to offer two this season," the Giants announced. "LGBT Night Out will provide a fun, exciting venue for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community of the Bay Area."

The May 9 festivities will start in the centerfield scoreboard plaza area with a pre-game mixer at 5:15 p.m. Your ticket will include admission to the party, an adult beverage, and a seat in the exclusive LGBT night lower box section. (Sounds great, but can I also have a locker room press pass? For research, doncha know.)

Visit www.sanfrancisco.giants.mlb.com and look up "Special Events at SBC Park" for more info. ▼

Miss Hawaii

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knowledge it can be very detrimental to our community and Olena is one person who can help change that."

'No borders'

While in town meeting with officials from the API Wellness Center to prepare for the May event, Rubin sat down with the *Bay Area Reporter* to discuss why she has taken on such a public role in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

"AIDS knows no borders. I feel it is my obligation to do whatever is within my power to stop HIV/AIDS," said Rubin, who is on leave of absence from Hawaii Pacific University. A junior majoring in speech communication with a minor in writing, Rubin will return to school in the fall after a new Miss Hawaii is crowned this June. Eventually, Rubin wants to work with kids as a speech therapist.

Her charm was on full display during the interview. After noticing this reporter is left-handed, Rubin remarked, "I have this theory that all left-handed people are attractive."

She has successfully mixed an ease with flattery, her stunning good looks, and the celebrity that comes with her crown to muscle media attention on HIV and AIDS within the API community. Half-Chinese and half-Jewish, Rubin has traveled the world speaking to API communities in China, Japan, and throughout the United States about HIV and AIDS issues. Her message, especially to gay API men, is a simple one.

"If you are going to have sex then have safe sex. We are all at risk. If you don't think you are at risk then you are at risk," said Rubin.

Perhaps no community is more dear to her heart than the gay API community. From early on Rubin was surrounded and reared by gay men, and saw personally the pain and loss AIDS has brought to the LGBT community.

Raised by a single mother who works as a flight attendant for United Airlines, Rubin also had a surrogate father, a gay man who was best friends with her mother. When she was 13, the man succumbed to AIDS.

"My mom was a single parent in an industry with a lot of homosexual men who surrounded me. We lost lots of friends who died of AIDS," said Rubin.

At 14 Rubin began volunteering with a local AIDS organization near her high school called Malama Pono, Hawaiian for "to take care." With her mother gone on long flights, she joined another family at age 15 under an arrangement in Hawaii called hanai - when a child is adopted but not

legally by a Hawaiian family. One of the couple's sons later came out as gay.

"He was my escort to the Miss America pageant," said Rubin.

After she moved to Honolulu at age 17, Rubin volunteered to be a buddy to a person living with HIV or AIDS. Her first buddy, a 17-year-old gay boy who was homeless and an IV drug user, is now sober, off the streets, and working full-time. Her second buddy is a single heterosexual woman with five children who is living with HIV.

She began entering beauty pageants in order to earn money for college and has raised \$60,000 to help pay for her education. Along with speaking out on AIDS issues, Rubin is also a vocal supporter of same-sex marriage rights.

"I support marriage rights for gays. One of my brothers is gay and he is in a relationship and seeks to be married. He should be given that right and that opportunity," she said. "In the competition I was asked about gay marriage. Gay, lesbian, transgender people should be given the same rights as everybody else."

Rubin readily admits she doesn't mind being controversial and doesn't back down easily when it comes to speaking about issues she cares deeply about. Part of her public speaking duties as Miss Hawaii has been lecturing middle and high school students about the ABC approach to sex, which includes talking about abstinence, being monogamous and using condoms.

"On Valentine's Day I was at one public high school talking about the ABCs. But when I go to private schools they don't want me talking about sex," said Rubin. "So instead I talk about respecting yourself and your body."

As Takemura pointed out, "She is given access to schools that other AIDS activists would not be allowed to go."

By launching the first annual HIV awareness day within the API community, Toma and other API AIDS advocates across the country are hoping to lay the groundwork to open their community's eyes to how AIDS is impacting their loved ones, neighbors and friends.

In April, the wellness center will launch a local Chinese language advertising campaign that will focus on lifting the stigma around AIDS in the Chinese community. The campaign is the culmination of two-years of work funded by a \$180,000 grant from the Ford Foundation.

"We still need to be progressively addressing HIV prevention in innovative ways and I think stigma is a key concern," said Toma. ▼

For more information, visit www.apiwellness.org

India

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enjoy the benefits of trade preferences if affordable AIDS treatments are not available.

India's proposed reversal comes at a time when generic AIDS treatments are finally reaching the developing world on a large scale.

"The number of people receiving AIDS treatments has doubled over the past year to 700,000. One half, or 350,000, are receiving generic treatments from India in the form of a one pill/twice a day combination. The proposed Indian Patent Law change threatens the health and stability of the

African continent," stated Nunu Kidane of the Bay Area's Priority Africa Network.

Kidane urged local activists to join others throughout the world in urging Indian leaders to take full advantage of WTO flexibilities regarding public health to continue to produce all AIDS drugs in generic form both for the poor in India and throughout the world. Calls can be made to Indian U.S. Ambassador Ronen Sen (202) 939-7000, or e-mail sonia.gandhi@sansad.nic.in. People can also visit the official Web site of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to send a message: www.pmindia.nic.in/write.htm.

For more information, visit www.healthgap.org. ▼

LEGAL NOTICES

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The following person(s) are doing business as: Merit Illustration, 665 Natoma St. San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Andrew Merit. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 2/7/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/18/05. **MAR. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CMC 05541839

In the matter of the application of Carol Anne Nelson for change of name. The application of Carol Anne Nelson for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Carol Anne Nelson has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Carol Nelson Ceres. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 26th day of April, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **MAR. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CMC 05541840

In the matter of the application of Brittany Amber Brown for change of name. The application of Brittany Amber Brown for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Brittany Amber Brown has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Brittany Brown Ceres. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 26th day of April, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **MAR. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005**

STATEMENT FILE A-0283418-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Metzler Brothers, 675 Haight St. San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Joseph B. Metzler. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/3/05. **MAR. 10, 17, 24, 31 2005**

STATEMENT FILE A-0283434-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Burke Ventures, 226 Grand View Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Thomas R. Burke. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/3/05. **MAR. 10, 17, 24, 31 2005**

STATEMENT FILE A-0283439-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Manna Bakery, 1235 Griffith St. San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by a husband and wife, signed Albert Torres. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/3/05. **MAR. 10, 17, 24, 31 2005**

STATEMENT FILE A-0282920-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Holistic Solutions, 2290 3rd St. San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Ken Estes. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/14/05. **MAR. 10, 17, 24, 31 2005**

STATEMENT FILE A-0283324-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: KAVI Skin Solutions, Inc. 75 Casa Way, #6 San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Kaveh Altizadeh. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 3/1/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/1/05. **MAR. 10, 17, 24, 31 2005**

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR FENCE, PARKING LOT DRAINAGE REPAIRS AND PLAYGROUND PAD AT HUNTERS POINT

Solicitation No: 04-620-IFB-033

The San Francisco Housing Authority will receive sealed bids for vinyl fence replacement, wood rail and stair replacements, parking lot drainage repairs, and new playground pad at Hunters Point East and West, San Francisco, CAL 1-17A and 1-17B. Total construction cost ranges from \$250,000 to \$275,000.

On Tuesday, March 29, 2005, at 10:00 AM, a site inspection will be held at the Housing Development. Prospective bidders will meet at the Property Managers office located at 90 Kiska Road, San Francisco.

Responses are due 2:00 PM, on Thursday, April 7, 2005. The IFB document is available at the Authority's office at 1815 Egbert Avenue, San Francisco on March 15, 2005. A processing fee of \$50.00 (non-refundable) will be required for each set of documents. All payments must be in the form of Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Company Check payable to the San Francisco Housing Authority. Cash or personal checks are not acceptable. Contact Ms. Carolina Penate-Larrea at (415) 715-3171, or e-mail at penatec@sfha.org.

NEWS DEVELOPMENT

Effective February 1, 2005, the Department of Child Support Services will be accepting child support payments by ATM credit and debit cards.

The Department of Child Support Services is constantly seeking ways to improve customer access to our services.

Accepting child support payments through credit and debit cards promotes fast, efficient, and easy payment services for all of our clients. In addition, payment records are also provided through clients' own monthly bank and credit card statements.

At this time, ATM and credit card payments are being accepted only at the main branch office, 617 Mission Street, SF, CA 94105, during its regular business hours.

Contact:

Eddie Chin
San Francisco Department of Child Support Services
(415) 356-2840
(415) 356-2971 (FAX)
e-mail: eddie.chin@sfgov.org

VACANCY NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 54974, California Government Code, notice is hereby given of the following unscheduled vacancies. Interested persons may obtain an application form from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, SF, CA 94102. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. All applicants must be residents of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated. Additional information may be obtained by accessing the City's web site: www.sfgov.org/bdsuprv

Please Note: Depending upon the posting date, some vacancies may have already been filled. To determine if vacancies for this Board/Committee/Commission or Task Force are still available please call the Rules Committee Clerk at 554-5184.

SUNSHINE ORDINANCE TASK FORCE 2000

Vacant seat 4, must be appointed from names submitted by New California Media and be a journalist from a racial/ethnic-minority-owned news organization, for a two-year term ending 4/27/07.

Vacant seat 8, must be a member of the public who has demonstrated interest in or has experience in the issues of citizen access and participation in local government, for the unexpired portion of a two-year term ending 4/27/06.

Vacant seat 11, term expiring, must be a member of the public who has demonstrated interest in or has experience in the issues of citizen access and participation in local government, for a two-year term ending 4/27/07.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS #303

Dear Potential Applicant:

The City and County of San Francisco, Human Services Agency, Department of Human Services (SFDHS) is seeking qualified contractors with experience in providing special projects coordination for the Children, Youth, and Family System of Care Project and related projects. The Children, Youth, and Family System of Care is a collaboration between the Family and Children Services Division of the Department of Human Services, the Children's System of Care Services of the Community Mental Health Division of the Department of Public Health, the Juvenile Probation Department, and the San Francisco Unified School District. The goal of the Project is to improve the efficiency and coordination of services to better serve the needs of children and youth who have emotional problems and are involved with more than one public system. The contract will be for the period of 7/1/05 to 6/30/06, total contract amount is to be determined. The contract may be renewed at the sole discretion of the Department based upon available funding, departmental needs, and contract performance.

An RFQ packet may be picked up at SFDHS, Office of Contract Management, 1650 Mission St., Suite 300, beginning Tuesday, March 15, 2005. Office hours are from 8:30 AM to 5 PM.

RFQ packets and subsequent updates will also be available on the City's website. Go to [HTTP://SUNSET.CLSFCAUS/PBIDS.NSF](http://SUNSET.CLSFCAUS/PBIDS.NSF) and click on the "Consultants and Professional Services" link.

The Respondents' Conference will be held on Wednesday, April 6, 2005, 2 PM, at 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, California. For further information, please call Sin Yee Poon, at (415) 557-5644. Due date for responses is Monday, April 25, 2005 at 4:00 PM. No Exceptions.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CMC 05541867

In the matter of the application of Senada Caus for change of name. The application of Senada Caus for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Senada Caus has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Nadia Caus. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 5th day of May, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **MAR. 17, 24, 31 APRIL 7 2005**

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS #301

Dear Potential Applicant:

The City and County of San Francisco Human Services Agency (HSA) is seeking a contractor to provide crisis intervention and a range of counseling and support services linked to the 24-hr parental stress line. The Department expects to select one contractor through this RFQ. The purpose of the range of services is to reduce the potential for child abuse and neglect and to decrease family isolation and improved family functioning. This service will complement the neighborhood-based, peer advocacy model of the 6 existing family resource centers with a more clinical approach for families needing these services. The contracting period for the contracts will be July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2008. The contract may be extended beyond the term at the sole option of the agency based upon available funding and departmental needs.

An RFQ packet may be picked up at SFDHS, Office of Contract Management, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, March 29, 2005. Office hours are from 8:30 AM to 5 PM. The RFQ packet and subsequent updates may be downloaded from the City's website on or after March 29, 2005. Go to [HTTP://SUNSET.CLSFCAUS/PBIDS.NSF](http://SUNSET.CLSFCAUS/PBIDS.NSF) and click on the "Consultants and Professional Services" link.

The Respondents' Conference will be held on March 31, 2005 at 9:30 AM at 1650 Mission St., Suite 300, SF, Ca. For further information, call Johanna Gendelman, at (415) 557-5162.

The deadline for submitting response packets is Thursday, April 28, 2005 at 4:00 PM. No Exceptions

STATEMENT FILE A-0283375-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Idea Gems Art & Frame, 274 Capp St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Carolina Tan-Bautista. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 3/2/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/2/05. **MAR. 10, 17, 24, 31 2005**

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To whom it may concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is/are: Universe LLC. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 71 Stevenson Street, Suite #1500 S. Francisco, Ca. 94105, to sell alcoholic beverages at 518 Ninth St. San Francisco, Ca. 94117. Type of license applied: 41 - ON-SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE **MAR. 10, 17, 24 2005**

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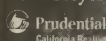
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LEGAL NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO
DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES
REQUEST FOR
QUALIFICATIONS # 302

DEAR POTENTIAL APPLICANT:

The City and County of San Francisco
Human Services Agency (HSA) is seeking a
contractor to provide childcare and sup-
portive services to homeless children in a li-
censed childcare program in the Tenderloin
Community. HSA currently provides fund-
ing for childcare services to this clientele
and wishes to continue funding these services.
An RFQ packet may be picked up at
SFHSA, Office of Contract Management,
1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, on or after
Friday, March 18, 2005. Office hours are
from 8:30 AM to 5 PM. RFQ packets will
also be available on the Internet at
http://www.sfgov.org/oc/purchasing.htm
click "BIDS and Contracts Database", then
the "Consultants and Professional Services"
link and look for RFQ #302.
For further information, call Esperanza
Zapian at (415) 557-5657. Due date for
responses is April 15, 2005 at 3:00 PM.
NO EXCEPTIONS



CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO
HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS #300

Dear Potential Applicant:
The City and County of San Francisco
Human Services Agency (HSA) is seeking a
contractor to provide substance abuse sup-
port services to families involved with Fam-
ily and Children's Services (FCS). The De-
partment expects to select one contractor
through this RFP process to offer assess-
ments, referral and linkage, case management
and education to families involved with FCS
who are affected by substance abuse.

The contracting period for the contracts will
be July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2008. The
contract may be extended beyond the term
at the sole option of the agency based upon
available funding and departmental needs.
An RFP packet may be picked up at SFHSA,
Office of Contract Management, 1650 Mis-
sion Street, Suite 300, March 24, 2005. Of-
fice hours are from 8:30 AM to 5 PM.

The RFP packet and subsequent updates
may be downloaded from the City's website
on or after March 24, 2005. Go to
HTTP://SUNSET.CLSF.CA.US/PBIDS.NSF
and click on the "Consultants and Profes-
sional Services" link.

The Respondents' Conference will be held
on March 30, 2005 at 10:00 AM at 1650
Mission St, Suite 300, SF, CA. For further
information, call Johanna Gendelman, at
(415) 557-5162 or
Johanna.Gendelman@sfgov.org.
The deadline for submitting response
packets is Friday, April 22, 2005 at 4:00
PM. No Exceptions

STATEMENT FILE A-0283506-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: Rue Saint Jacques, 1098 Jackson St.
San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business
is conducted by an individual, signed Cher-
ry L. Sta-Ana. The registrant(s) commenced
to transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on N/A.
The statement was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/7/05.
MAR. 17, 24, 31 APRIL 7 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0283566-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: European Psychic, 890 Sutter St. San
Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is
conducted by an individual, signed Mike
Adams. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed fic-
titious business name or names on N/A. The
statement was filed with the City and Coun-
ty of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/9/05.
MAR. 17, 24, 31 APRIL 7 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0283577-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: Royal Loan, 1024 Mission St. San Fran-
cisco, Ca. 94103. This business is con-
ducted by an individual, signed Tonic Iose-
bavilli. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed fic-
titious business name or names on 8/11/92.
The statement was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/9/05.
MAR. 17, 24, 31 APRIL 7 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0283661-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: The Nutshell Corporation, 867 McAllister St.
San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is
conducted by a corporation, signed Lavin
Jones. The registrant(s) commenced to trans-
act business under the above listed fictitious
business name or names on 10/10/04. The
statement was filed with the City and Coun-
ty of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/14/05.
MAR. 17, 24, 31 APRIL 7 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRAN-
CISCO FILE # CNC 05541898

In the matter of the application of Patrick
Augustus Walsh for change of name. The
application of Patrick Augustus Walsh for
change of name having been filed in Court,
and it appearing from said application that
Patrick Augustus Walsh has filed an applica-
tion proposing that his/her name be
changed to Aldo Veranzo. Now therefore,
it is hereby ordered, that all persons inter-
ested in said matter do appear before this
Court in Room 218 on the 17th day of
May, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show
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name should not be granted.
MAR. 17, 24, 31 APRIL 7 2005

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Mike 925-947-5550 E12

STATEMENT FILE A-0283624-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: U.S.S. Repose, 4220 Cesar Chavez #211
San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is
conducted by an individual, signed David A.
Lara. The registrant(s) commenced to trans-
act business under the above listed fictitious
business name or names on 3/1/05. The state-
ment was filed with the City and County of
San Francisco, Ca. on 3/11/05.
MAR. 17, 24, 31 APRIL 7 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0283448-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: Lucvan Gardener Service, 2131 40th
Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This busi-
ness is conducted by an individual, signed
Nguyen Luc Van. The registrant(s) com-
menced to transact business under the above
listed fictitious business name or names on
3/1/05. The statement was filed with the City
and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/14/05.
MAR. 24, 31 APRIL 7, 14 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0283649-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: 1) Splitvision Digital 2) Splitvision,
1738 Haight St. #310 San Francisco, Ca.
94117. This business is conducted by an
individual, signed Brendan Coats. The reg-
istrant(s) commenced to transact business
under the above listed fictitious business
name or names on 3/11/05. The statement
was filed with the City and County of San
Francisco, Ca. on 3/11/05.
MAR. 24, 31 APRIL 7, 14 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0283313-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: Hotel Biron, 45 Rose St. San Francisco,
Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by
a corporation, signed Jessica Gaston. The
registrant(s) commenced to transact busi-
ness under the above listed fictitious busi-
ness name or names on 5/28/04. The state-
ment was filed with the City and County of
San Francisco, Ca. on 2/28/05.
MAR. 24, 31 APRIL 7, 14 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0283706-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: Soccer Insight, 379 A Elizabeth St.,
San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business
is conducted by an individual, signed D L
Johnson. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed fic-
titious business name or names on 3/15/05.
The statement was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/15/05.
MAR. 24, 31 APRIL 7, 14 2005

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #0281378

The following person(s) have abandoned the
use of the fictitious business name known as
Happy Buddha located at 280 Golden Gate
Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This busi-
ness was conducted by a general partner-
ship signed Wing San Yu. The fictitious
name was filed with the City and County of
San Francisco, Ca. on 12/22/04.
FEB. 24 MAR. 3, 10, 17 2005

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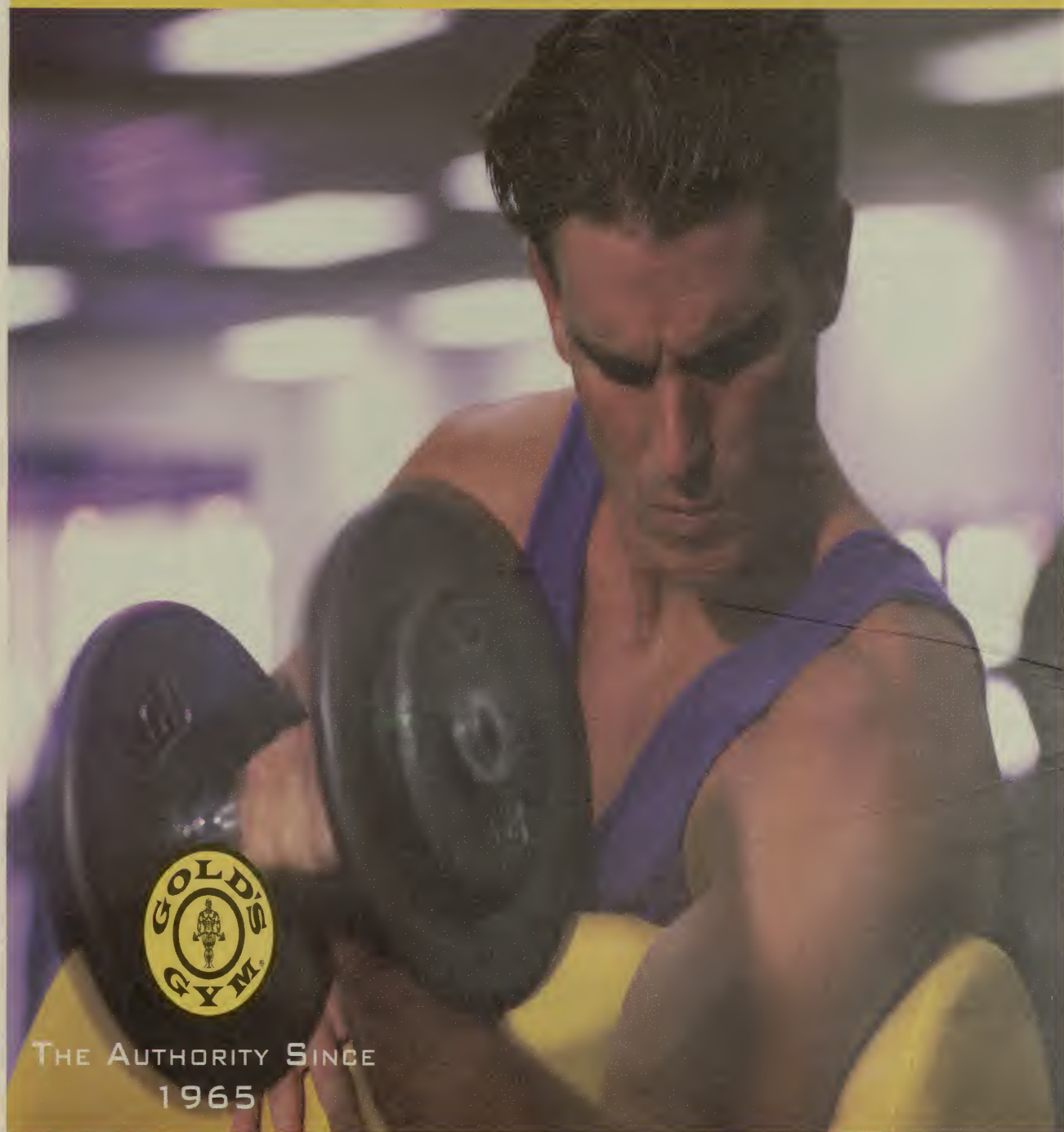
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Photos from Duane Cramer's clan
'Family Focus: A Look at Fashion Through
Historic Family Photographs' at SFO.

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Social butterflies
Going out 'On the Town'
with glam Donna Sachet.

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Considering youth
Meet gay young adult
author Brent Hartinger.

page 39



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 35 • No. 12 • 24 March 2005

Lesbian kick-ass spy-chasers

Angela Robinson
directs action
spoof 'D.E.B.S.'

by David Lamble

In *D.E.B.S.*, Amy (Sara Foster) sets out to track down master criminal vixen Lucy Diamond (Jordana Brewster) in a movie spoof that's a door into summer for lesbian action fans. Director Angela Robinson swears the idea for *D.E.B.S.* (which stands for Discipline. Energy. Beauty. Strength.) came to her by way of a joke.

"I went to film school at NYU, and I met this girl who told me this big story about how she'd been recruited by the CIA from a secret test in the SAT. She totally had me going. I totally believed her, and it turned out she was pulling my leg. But I always thought it would make a good premise for a TV show. I ended up drawing a kind of comic about it and creating the characters from there."

Kick-started on a no-frills budget and bootcamp-tough four-day shooting schedule, Robinson's short (beginning with a WB network-spoofing tag-line, "Previously on *D.E.B.S.*...") was 11 minutes of ultra-skinny girls playing with aluminum-foil fake guns and climaxing in a feisty bed-scene that wowed festival audiences and got a deal for an ultra-low-

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D.E.B.S. is a feature-length version of a no-frills short.

de Young at heart

The Education Tower will house study centers and an observation floor.



Fine Arts Museums SF

Sneak preview of the
new de Young Museum

by Roberto Friedman

What a wonderful world it is, thought Out There on a fine, almost springlike day last week, racing along John F. Kennedy Drive to a press luncheon and preview walk-through of the spectacular new de Young Museum in Golden Gate Park. It was our putative "day off" and we were spending three-hours-plus at a press conference, but that's what one does when one is a pillar of the Fourth Estate, *non?* Well, if not a pillar, then certainly a flying buttress.

There was plenty of reason to bustle along the muddy paths along Kennedy Drive, skirting the construction, which is currently making a giant gravel pit (and a highly controversial underground garage) of the Music Concourse. Director of Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco Harry S. Parker III would personally lead a gawking group of pressies on a tour of the galleries still taking shape. Architect Pierre de Meuron, who with Jacques Herzog designed the new de Young, was in the house and available for questioning. The museum will open to the public on October 15, 2005, and there are treats in store beyond your imagining.

First, the press lunch in the soon-to-be museum café. It's a simple yet elegant space with an attractive assortment of overhead light fixtures. Large windows overlook what will be the sculpture garden, which is to include an Oldenberg safety pin and a commissioned James Turrell "skyscape" that will take the form of a *stupa*, a dome shape used in Buddhist practice to house relics or commemorate an event.

We sat at a table with FAM-SF Director of Education Shelia Pressley and Head Conservator Elisabeth Cornu, both of whom had unusual insights into the world-class opportunities the new museum will bring. Pressley was especially excited about the new de Young's tower, which, besides the top-floor observational deck, will be devoted to the Education Department and study centers for the departments of American Art and Africa, Oceania and the Americas. Keeping the *primo* tower spaces for education and the public, as opposed to, say, the offices of museum professionals, seems pretty good institutional karma to us.

next page ►

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

de Young

Arts cover

Also at our table was *Chronicle* arts writer **Jesse Hamlin**, whose advance feature was already filed. In fact, populating nearby tables were the *Chron*'s urban design critic, its art critic, its arts editor, its cartoonist, its gossip columnist — whom we had just dished in our column. She graciously came up to our table and said hello. But doesn't anyone at the daily paper go into the office anymore?

Our tour began in the museum's spacious-feeling interior "piazza," the Wilsey Court, where the park and gardens literally come into the building in the form of interior courtyards. The space is still under construction, its surfaces new or unfinished, and we quipped to museum director Parker that the smell was like that of a new car. This made Harry smile and laugh.

We wedged ourselves into an elevator with other excited journalists and ascended to the tower's 9th floor. The tower twists or torques in a spiral so that the top floor, the observation deck, is

aligned with the city's street grid, which you can tell when you're up there. You can see clear across the park above the tree line, you can see the Golden Gate Bridge towers, you can see as far away as the Financial District.

The best news about what we've seen so far is that the entry-lobby piazza, those interior courtyards, the café, the museum's store, and the observation deck will all be available to the public free of charge. It's only when you enter the museum's galleries that you will require a ticket (\$10, half the price of admission to NYC's Museum of Modern Art). This arrangement nods to the fact that the de Young is sited in Golden Gate Park, crown jewel of SF's

parks and green spaces. The free entrance is good karma, it's democratic, it takes a cue from Herzog & de Meuron's established museum success, the Tate Modern in London.

The de Young has commissioned site-specific works from four major-hitter contemporary artists for the new museum. We've already mentioned James Turrell's *Three Gems* now taking shape in



Out There



The Pacific Gallery, now in the process of being installed, will house art of Africa, Oceania and the Americas.

the sculpture garden. **Gerhard Richter** will have pride of place, with a large-scale mural to preside over the Wilsey Court. **Kiki Smith** is reinterpreting a 1670 American painting in the de Young collection, "The Mason Children: David, Joanna and Abigail." **Andy Goldsworthy**, of *Rivers and Tides* fame, will create a continuous crack in the Yorkshire stone running from the roadway in front of the museum, up the walkway, into the courtyard to the main entrance. It's sure to be a celebrated crack.

We miss the Music Concourse, and we'll be glad when the gosh-darned garage is finally buried underground and we can have our public space back. But for the record, we transported ourselves to the de Young quickly and efficiently via the Muni's N Judah, which stops one mere city block from the park's 9th Ave. entrance. We transported ourselves from the museum by walking one city block to the park's portal on Fulton St., where two Muni bus lines were waiting to whisk us back downtown. If only we lived in a society which put funding for public transportation above the needs of car-owners, then we'd really feel like celebrating.

'Roid rage

In his testimony to Congress last week, 'roid rage baseball slugger **Jose Canseco** looked like he'd been tanning himself on the chicken rotisserie all day, and pumping iron all night. The look was at once so exotic and so laughable it made us want to run right into a bathroom stall with poor fucked-up ball-player **Mark McGwire** to jab each other in the buttocks with syringes full of spinach juice. Actually, Out There is only pulling your freakishly massive leg. But we're continually astounded that this is what passes for straight-guy behavior these days — buddies locking themselves into a men's room stall, dropping trou, bending over and thinking of England while they're treated to an injection from their pal. That's so gay it's megagay. Forget steroids; check out these dudes' Viagra allowances.

Dept. of Those Sculptors All Look Alike

Rumpy: Hey Pumpy, it says here in the *SF Chron* that artist Kiki Smith's father was famed sculptor **David Smith**. That can't be, can it? Seems like if that were true, we would have heard it before.

Pumpy: I'm sure I don't know, Rumpy. I know next to nothing about art history, and I have no interior life. Now pass the steroids and bend over.

[Next day.]

Rumpy: Aha, it says in this correction box that Kiki's dad was sculptor/architect **Tony Smith**. We know, it's so hard to keep all those Smiths straight.

Scuttle butt

Opening up the veritable Pandora's box of **Gore Vidal**/Alfred Kinsey dish in last week's column

has been both fascinating and instructive for Out There, as more details of the septuagenarian's sex life have leaked, perhaps an unfortunate choice of verb, out.

If your appetite for information on the Vidal libido knows no bounds, there's plenty to feed that hunger in his memoirs, *Palimpsest*. For instance, we had a pretty good chuckle in what he wrote about a party in Washington, DC that he attended with incorrigibly gay playwright **Tennessee Williams**. Also present was the young, handsome, then-Senator **John F. Kennedy**. As the Senator walked out of the room, Williams eyed his rear-end.

Vidal said, "Tennessee, you can't cruise him — he's going to be the next President of the United States." Williams replied, "That may be, Gore, but he still has a nice ass." Later in the book, Vidal mentions **Truman Capote**, saying that the last time he saw him was at a party, where he mistook him for a hassock and sat on him. Meow!

Also: for the record, hunk-with-a-history **Eric Roberts** can be seen every week, until it's canceled, on a very weak ABC sitcom called *Less Than Perfect*. A very sweet reader sent us a list of easy-to-follow instructions for Roberts viewing, beginning with, "Pick up your remote." But if it means tuning into commercial television, count us out!

You could count us in on the St. Patty's Day celebrations last Thursday night; ours began rather before the end of the workday with a good stiff drink at Ginger's Trois with our partly-Irish pal **Corey**. Ginger's bartender **Mason** and a pair of partly-lubricated patrons regaled us with a few choruses of "I'm in Love with a Beautiful Man." We hear you, boys, and we heart you. ▼

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The gods must be crazy

Power-drunk deities rule in 'One Big Lie'

by Richard Dodds

The gods who nurse this universe," Cole Porter tells us in a 1929 song, spend their days laughing as humans stumble through love affairs. These capricious gods turned up quite a bit in the songs and musicals of the '20s, '30s, and '40s, often with a renegade god risking disempowerment by falling in love with a mortal.

In Liz Duffy Adams' *One Big Lie*, these gods are back messing up lives for their amusement. As an oracle tells a young woman in distress, "Your family has been god-fucked." These gods are not the naughty spirits of a Cole Porter lyric, but rather sadistic hedonists who wallow in unquestioned power.

But in *One Big Lie*, now in its world premiere at the Exit Theatre, there is still the renegade god who comes to Earth, not for love but to convince humankind that it is the maker of its own shackles by bowing — or just acquiescing — to powers that actually deserve our scorn.

It's an intriguing journey Adams conducts, with the characters recurring in three eras and the dialogue, situations, and music reflecting the various periods. While the gods take on different forms as the years pass, their malevolent grip on power stays the same.

Adams, author of the award-winning *Dog Act*, was commissioned by Crowded Fire Theatre to create a new play around the company's actors. While pretty much assuring that no one will be egregiously miscast, the process does carry creative restraints that may explain why the play can fall periodically into a languor not seen in the crisply written *Dog Act*.

At times, *One Big Lie* resembles a Brechtian musical laced with



Cassie Beck as Cassoulay, and Adam Chipkin as Arne in *One Big Lie*.

whimsy. With a four-piece ensemble playing David Rhodes' music, the cast frequently breaks into songs with smart lyrics by Adams. But singing is not this cast's long suit, a bit of a flaw in the written-to-fit approach.

Rebecca Novick, Crowded Fire's artistic director, has staged this complicated play with verve and a fair number of imaginative strokes. Linda Jones, Cassie Beck, Mollena Williams, and Paul Lancour play the gods, and Alexandra Creighton, Juliet Tanner, Adam Chipkin, and Alan Quismorio are the mortals.

One of the worst pejoratives you can throw at a god is to call him or her "mortal-whipped," a condition when empathy seeps past a god's amoral armor. In the end, Adams seems to be saying, it is the road to

salvation even if it means that gods must die in the process. But just to keep us on our toes, we get a great big "deus ex machina, baby" to finish things off. ▼

One Big Lie will run at the Exit Theatre through April 16. Tickets are \$15-\$20. Call 675-5995 or go to crowdedfire.org.

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Lesser Feydeau

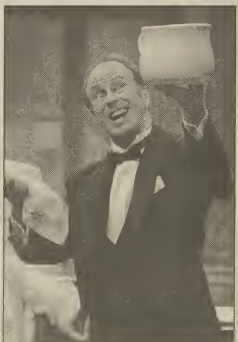
Tepid 'For Better or Worse'

by Richard Dodds

You know you've got problems when the filler is funnier than the main event. In *For Better or Worse* at Berkeley Rep, after we've seen the first of two atypically unfunny Feydeau playlets, Geoff Hoyle pulls two members of the audience onstage for some mild humiliation. He's no Dame Edna, but the bit draws far more laughter than the play that preceded it.

It's worth noting that the audience-participation bit is based on putting the dragooned volunteers through the paces of a typical door-slammng Feydeau farce. That is decidedly not the style of the two one-acts written late in his career and reflecting an unhappy marriage. We are, in fact, informed of all this at the top of the show by Hoyle in the guise of a doddering professor who makes several more between-the-scenes appearances before it's all over.

It was Hoyle, a noted Bay Area farceur, who adapted these Feydeau pieces, at least partly as a vehicle for his own talents. But despite the tireless mugging and



Noted farceur Geoff Hoyle.

physical shtick, Hoyle can't save Hoyle — or maybe Hoyle can't save lesser Feydeau.

That Feydeau was unhappy with his wife is clear enough in the two plays. The first takes place as a pregnant wife deals with early labor pains by being an impossible shrew to her vaguely helpful husband. The second play takes place eight years later as a business meeting the husband is conduct-

next page ►

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Tackling the Mahler Seventh

MTT and SFS reach a difficult landmark in the symphony cycle

by Philip Campbell

Gustav Mahler and his remarkable canon of nine symphonies have reigned supreme in the classical music industry since their rediscovery and championing by Leonard Bernstein in the 1960s. Only Brahms and Beethoven seem to match him in interest to musicians, conductors, label executives and the CD-buying public.

Of course, not every maestro is equal to the task of making an exciting and cohesive series. The variables in such a vast undertaking are almost overwhelming when con-

sidering the requirements for even one successful rendition.

Mahler calls for huge numbers of musicians to submit their best and most taxing work to the interpretive vision of a mastermind conductor, who himself must battle with the demonic difficulties of an exalted genius, open to wildly varying interpretation.

Bernstein trailblazed with his famous cycle in typical style, his performances weighted between charismatic personal glamour and deeply agonized introspection. Jascha Horenstein's less-well-circulated recordings tended towards a gentler and more diffuse spiritual vision.

Personal favorites over the

years have been with Georg Solti's strong and well-recorded Chicago Symphony Orchestra cycle and even Pierre Boulez's much chillier and more analytical re-imaginings with various American and European orchestras.

No one will want to forget Bruno Walter, Sir John Barbirolli or Claudio Abbado, either. All of them have had much to convey in many satisfying recordings. Currently, though, there are only two major projects nearing the finish line with complete cycles.

Simon Rattle, on EMI (his home base label), has been working slowly but surely on an ambitious survey of the symphonies and vocal works since the late '80s. He has recorded with more than one orchestra, but the bulk of his work has been with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, a sometimes underpowered but always committed band. The recent release of the mighty Eighth brings Rattle to the end of a long and arduous journey. Remarkable that the industry — despite financial problems — has allowed him to complete his quest.

Halfway point

The other series, now reaching the halfway mark, is with our own San Francisco Symphony and the intensely dedicated Michael Tilson Thomas. Moreover, the SFS series is on the orchestra's own pioneering label, recorded on SACD (Super Audio Compact Disc), and the product of sensitively edited live-performance tapings.

Tilson Thomas has made his case for "live" recording, and I have come to enthusiastically agree. The *frisson*, the quiver of excitement, captured by the brilliant engineers lends a whole new dimension of clarity and exhilaration to the award-winning discs.

MTT explores each symphony individually, while trying to display a dramatic arc throughout the cycle. His discoveries are never less than



Terence McCarthy

Mahler's symphonies are open to interpretation by conductors like MTT.

deeply interesting, rarely willful and always highly musical. Some of his already released performances — a shattering Sixth and fresh-faced Second — approach instant classic status. They can bear favorable comparison with some of the greatest of the past.

Most recently, MTT and the SFS played and recorded the undeniably tricky and enigmatic Seventh for appreciative crowds and critics at Davies Symphony Hall. Talk about multitasking! The concerts served as subscription concerts, tapings, and big-league dress rehearsals for the orchestra's two nights at Carnegie Hall in mid-March.

Ironically, after being such a strong supporter of the process, I found these performances scrappy, disjointed and confusing. The nocturnal Seventh has been recorded suavely and intelligently

before by MTT with the London Symphony Orchestra. What was he going for this time around?

The problem may have been with the "recording studio" aspects of the performance. Longer than usual pauses were allowed between movements, to give the audience a chance to cough and shift around. There was even a "seventh-inning stretch" before the finale.

Reviews of the Carnegie Hall performance were favorable, but suspiciously sketchy. Were the New York scribes also unwilling to admit this emperor had no clothes? Or had the removal of distracting audience behavior revealed the glories of the amazing score?

Maybe we'll have to wait for the compact disc release to get the final answer. Admittedly, some of the discs in the series do sound better in the mind's eye. ▼

Ninth rewards

by Philip Campbell

Gustav Mahler, *Symphony No. 9* — San Francisco Symphony, Michael Tilson Thomas (SFS Media)

The latest installment in MTT's thrilling Mahler cycle with the San Francisco Symphony is due for release on April 12. The elegiac and deeply spiritual Ninth Symphony brings the pioneering series (engineered and marketed on the organization's own label) to the approximate halfway mark.

The new two-disc set comes from live performances captured at Davies Symphony Hall in late September and early October 2004.

There is no denying the extra charge present in "live" performances. MTT is not only a visceral conductor, but also a meticulously demanding one. He creates performances that hold as much pleasure to see as well as to hear. For the most part in this award-winning series, the combination of physicality and aural splendor is admirably apparent.

The Ninth, of course, is arguably the most interior and profoundly touching of the cycle, and it needs nothing more than a clear interpretive vision and some truly superior ensemble playing.

MTT gets all that and more from this reading. It is measured and somber throughout — a little light on dramatic nuance, perhaps, but ultimately very moving in a straightforward way. The sheen of the string playing and autumnal warmth of the brass are spectacular. Bravi to the brilliant team in the sound booth!

For MTT completists, this recording will be *de rigueur*. For Mahler aficionados, it will go on the shelf close to the legendary Bernstein and beloved Sir John Barbirolli.

MTT calls the Ninth "the most important and emotionally satisfying farewell symphony in all of music." Does this handsomely packaged, luxuriously recorded and carefully pondered 2-disc set support his claim? For the most part, yes — but if you still want a good cry, listen again to the Bernstein. ▼

For Better...

◀ previous page

ing at home becomes a shambles because of the wife's hysteria over their son's constipation. Mistakenly ingested laxatives, and the results, are part of the fun.

The wife is a charming character, and a committed Sharon Lockwood doesn't worry about winning back any sympathy from the audience. Jarion Monroe is a solid pro as a government minister, and Amy Resnick earns some real laughs as two very different servants.

For Better or Worse, directed by David Ira Goldstein, is a co-production with the Arizona Theatre. Reviews of that run make no mention of Hoyle's periodic appearances as the professor. Perhaps they're a bonus for Bay Area audiences, but just as likely they were added to help goose up the proceedings.

Speaking of geese, one of the professor's stories involves the pleasure of using the downy neck of a goose to wipe one's bum. He doesn't indicate whether the goose should be dead or alive. ▼

For Better or Worse will run at Berkeley Rep through April 24. Tickets are \$43-\$55. Call (510) 647-2949 or go to berkeleyrep.org.

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DVD

The dangers of sexual repression

Beatty and Wood in 'Splendor in the Grass' on DVD

by Tavo Amador

Despite the image of sexual freedom associated with the Roaring Twenties, most women of that era were told that sex was something they had to endure within the confines of marriage. The blessings of motherhood, they were assured, offset the unpleasantness associated with conjugal relations. Lost virginity and pregnancy were the greatest dangers facing an unmarried girl. Boys were warned that getting a nice girl "in trouble" would result in forced marriage. Few parents understood the risks arising from repressed sexual longings.

Perhaps because the pressure

on homosexuals to deny their sexuality was even greater than what was placed on women, gay playwright William Inge (1913-73) recognized the risks of thwarted passions, as did his friend and mentor, the openly gay Tennessee Williams. In his original screenplay *Splendor in the Grass* ('61), filmed by Elia Kazan, Inge hauntingly shows the tragic consequences of repression on Wilma Dean "Deanie" Loomis (Natalie Wood) and Bud Stamper (Warren Beatty), high school students in a small town in southwest Kansas in '28. The title comes from a line in William Wordsworth's *Intimations of Immortality*. The movie has just been released in DVD.

Bud's family is rich, and he's



the school's star athlete. Deanie lives in a house above her father's grocery store. The film opens with the pair necking in his convertible

near a lake and waterfall. Bud loves and respects Deanie, and struggles to contain his physical longing for her. She loves him wholeheartedly, but is a "nice" girl who won't have sex before marriage, although it's clear he arouses very strong desires in her. Bud's bombastic, domineering father Asa (an intense Pat Hingle) has already mapped out his son's life: Yale, then managing the family oil business. He doesn't care that Bud wants to be a farmer. Bud's sister Ginny (Barbara Loden) has already disappointed the family by flunking out of several colleges and by her "wild" flapper ways: smoking, drinking, and seducing boys. Deanie's mother (a superb Audrey Christie) approves of Bud,

but warns against pre-marital sex. Because their stock-market investments are growing, Deanie's parents can afford to send her to college.

Bud breaks with Deanie: he fears their passions will result in sex before he's ready to marry her. Tellingly, he isn't comfortable using other girls just for sex. He's miserable, but Deanie's depression is severe. Desperate to get Bud back, she bobs her hair, dresses provocatively, and, at the high school dance, tries to seduce him. Bud is shocked by her behavior, but they drive to the waterfalls. Desire consumes him, but he once again stops before going "too far." Feeling rejected, Jeannie flirts with another boy, who nearly rapes her. She then dives into the lake and is rescued before going over the falls. She suffers an emotional collapse.

Crash landing

Bud goes to Yale while Deanie is sent to a sanatorium for psychiatric care. At Yale, Bud does poorly. His father insists that he remain in school, but, faced with financial ruin following the '29 stock market crash, he commits suicide. Bud finds consolation from an Italian-American waitress, Angelina (Zohra Lambert).

At the sanatorium, Deanie's condition improves. She meets another patient, a doctor, who wants to marry her. After more than two years, she returns home and asks

page 45 ►

A haunting portrait of murder

by David Nahmod

Gene Tierney (1921-91) was said to have been one of the most hauntingly beautiful women to have graced the screen during the Golden Age of Hollywood. She was a natural beauty, and didn't need her features to be altered by the studio make-up department. She was also one of the very few actresses of the period whose birth name was also her screen name.

There was a certain sadness that surrounded Tierney, and the camera captured this. In her eyes, one could always see the suffering she endured in her life. After many failed marriages, the loss of children, and a 20-year battle with mental illness, Tierney was a beautiful, fragile, porcelain doll.

Laura ('44) was the film that secured Tierney's place in film history. Now Fox DVD has released this masterpiece of love, obsession and murder among New York's high society, in a deluxe DVD special edition that will satisfy Tierney's fans and those who enjoy a witty, sophisticated whodunit.

The film's opening line captures the essence of Tierney's, and *Laura*'s, haunting qualities. "I'll never forget the night Laura died," intones Waldo Lydecker (Clifton Webb) in a voiceover, as the camera pans across his elegant Park Avenue apartment. Lydecker is a print and radio columnist. Witty, urbane, and vicious to the core, he is a bitchy queen, a seemingly gay character who appears to be obsessively in love with Laura.

Laura's body, riddled with bullets, has been found in her apartment on the eve of her wedding to the urbane cad Shelby (a very young Vincent Price). Both Shelby and Lydecker are high on the list of suspects, and the two trade barbs as handsome Detective Mark McPherson (Dana Andrews) tries to solve the murder. Laura is seen in flashback as McPherson pieces together the last few days of the young woman's life.

The great director Otto Preminger weaves Laura in and out of the other characters' lives with sophisticated ease, allowing the viewer to understand the obsession the other characters have for her. Tierney displays true star quality in these scenes. She is so ravishingly beautiful that it's im-



possible to turn away from her when she's onscreen.

Many of the scenes are set in her apartment, dominated by a huge portrait of Laura over the mantle. As McPherson fits the pieces of Laura's death together, the murder victim watches over the proceedings like a ghost, and the detective soon finds himself falling in love with the dead woman.

Webb cast

Clifton Webb is a standout among the cast. Webb (1893-1966) was an actor whose homosexuality was an open secret in Hollywood. He was one of the few actors who was able to be openly gay without being blacklisted, and he often played gay on screen. Though "the g word" was never spoken in his films, his acid-tongued bitchiness, most evident in *Laura*, let gay audiences know that they were watching one of their own onscreen.

Webb has all the film's best lines. "I don't use a pen, I write with a quill, dipped in venom." "I'm not a nice person, I'm vicious. It's part of my charm." Webb says these lines with just the right mixture of bitterness, sarcasm and humor, and he steals every scene he's in.

Webb's character is obsessed with Laura, which may put in question whether or not Lydecker is actually a gay character. In my view, he is. The relationship between Laura and the film's other male characters is clearly romantic. With Lydecker, it is obviously a platonic friendship. Lydecker mentors Laura, making sure she meets all the "right" people. Eventually he comes to view her as a piece of property.

What should be debated is whether or not Lydecker is a neg-

ative depiction of gay men. As witty and sophisticated as he may be, Lydecker is a dreadful man who delights in hurting people. Might the closets we were forced to inhabit for so many decades be the cause of the bad behavior we still sometimes see in individuals like Lydecker?

20th Century Fox offers *Laura* on DVD with all the trimmings. Extras include two uncut episodes of A&E's *Biography* series: Vincent Price: The Versatile Villain is an

entertaining look at Price's life as a horror-movie icon and patron of the arts; *Gene Tierney: Shattered Portrait* tells the tale of the beautiful actress' sad life.

Also featured is a commentary track from the film's lone surviving crew member, composer David Raskin. A second commentary track, from film historian Rudy Behlmer, *Laura*'s original theatrical trailer, and a few deleted scenes round out this impressive DVD. ▼

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IMAGE: Lorena Pelgri and Nicolas Batic in Possibility's Study in Motion. © San Francisco Ballet

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Black writers explore Eros and image

by Jim Nawrocki

Best Black Gay Erotica, edited by Darieck Scott (Cleis)

In Search of Pretty Young Black Men, by Stanley Bennett Clay (Atria Books)

Why I Hate Abercrombie & Fitch, by Dwight A. McBride (New York University Press)

As ethnically targeted marketing becomes more and more popular, it's not surprising that this trend should find its literary counterpart. This is especially true in the realm of genre fiction, and in erotica in particular. The recent popularity of Zane, the single-named author of a series of lurid romances aimed at African American women, is just one example. In popular gay literature, erotica collections focused on Asians, Latinos and African Americans are enjoying increasing success.

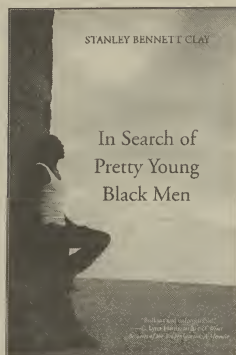
Best Black Gay Erotica, released earlier this year, is an apparent spin-off of the longtime *Best Gay Erotica* series. In his introduction to the collection, Darieck Scott attempts an historical explanation for the paucity of gay black male erotica and also provides a brief primer on the unique terrain of gay black male sexuality. Several of the stories in the collection, for example, depict the adventures of "brothers on the down-low," i.e., those black men who, identifying neither as gay or bisexual, are involved in romantic and sexual re-



lationships with women while they seek clandestine sex with men. While Scott posits a few theories to help illuminate gay black male sexuality, he stops short of politicizing the fiction offered in this anthology.

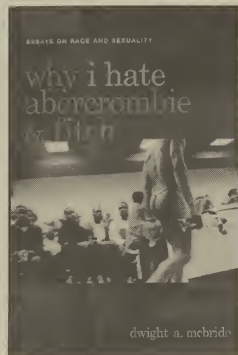
The collection explores mostly familiar gay territory, with the obvious racial focus. It includes an excerpt from Samuel R. Delany's novel *The Mad Man* called "The Sleepwalkers," which details one man's redemption through water sports. Robert F. Reid-Pharr's "Horse Philosophy" offers a rather cerebral take on the sex club experience—it even includes footnoted references to the works of Edward W. Said and Richard Wright, among others. The book also includes erotic artwork of the artist Belasco.

In a somewhat different vein, Stanley Bennett Clay's novel *In Search of Pretty Young Black Men*



also explores African American sexuality, this time from the perspective of prosperous, educated and married blacks and their circle of friends. These include Maggie Lester-Allegro. Sheltered in a hilltop enclave of wealthy African American families, she finds herself growing distant from her husband and increasingly obsessed with a young black man.

Initially, Clay's novel seems to be simply a lyrical tale of one woman's satisfaction of sexual wanderlust. Ultimately, it reveals itself to be an intricate tale of Oedipal proportions, built upon some rather hard-to-believe plot turns. Though Clay stretches the boundaries of believability, he tells his tale engagingly. He also works quite a lot of story into a novel of only 163 pages, dividing it almost down the middle between Maggie's story and that of her husband,



who harbors secrets of his own. Clay's prose offers up some truly alluring appreciations of black male beauty. There are also some fun little details, such as the scene in which black women commiserate while watching gay male porn.

Identity lit

The popularity of ethnically themed erotica is perhaps a natural outgrowth of the growing body of literature (including criticism and theory) devoted to ethnic identity. As noted earlier, even writers of black erotica can be inspired by the likes of the late Edward W. Said, whose *Orientalism* is one of the seminal texts of eth-

nic studies. Dwight A. McBride's newly published essay collection, *Why I Hate Abercrombie & Fitch*, brings together his essays on race and sexuality from the early 1990s to the present. McBride, who chairs the Department of African American Studies at Northwestern University, weighs in on such topics as the 1992 LA riots, Anita Hill, race and consumer culture, and African American intellectuals, among others.

In his preface and introduction to the collection, McBride calls for a broadening of African American studies as a discipline. Though some of these essays are more "academic" than others, McBride brings passion to his subjects, and this is perhaps most apparent in the title essay. He excoriates Abercrombie & Fitch not for its racy, homoerotic catalogs and merchandising, but for its blatantly white elitism, which is evident in its advertising but even more so in its hiring practices. Invoking Hannah Arendt's famous description of Adolf Eichmann ("the banality of evil"), he suggests that the retailer's racial ideals are as insidious, and ultimately as dangerous, as those of the Nazis. McBride's volume is a provocative and wide-ranging exploration of a range of issues relating to race and sexuality — and perhaps a good follow-up to any volume of black-themed erotica. ▼

Eternal flamers

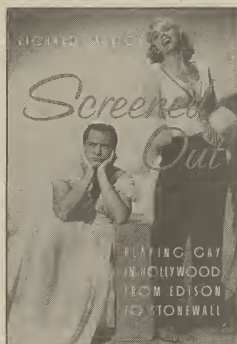
by Robert Julian

Screened Out – Playing Gay in Hollywood from Edison to Stonewall by Richard Barrios; Routledge, \$24.95

With appropriate deference to Vito Russo's groundbreaking *Celluloid Closet*, author Richard Barrios offers a counterpoint to Russo's work with *Screened Out – Playing Gay in Hollywood from Edison to Stonewall*. Where Russo's agitprop treatise castigated Hollywood for its shabby treatment of lesbians and gays, Barrios offers a more objective and balanced assessment of the situation, and comes away with a significantly different understanding.

Barrios demonstrates that, from the days of silent film through 1970, gays and lesbians were always present in American film. By deconstructing the films of each decade, Barrios shows exactly how homosexuals were portrayed, and how that portrayal changed with the times. The earliest days were, in some ways, the most liberal. Butch ladies and fey gentlemen were given free reign to camp their way across the screen, enforcing what may — or may not — have been stereotypical behavior. Homosexuals were funny, but there was little in the way of pejorative connotations until the 1934 onset of Hollywood's strict and repressive production code.

But even after the portrayal of "perversion" was explicitly prohibited, filmmakers found ways to communicate alternative sexuality with a variety of codes and behaviors. The portrayals morphed with the times, occasionally with sinister overtones, but homosexuals were hardly absent from the screen. In 1939, family-friendly Disney produced an ani-



mated paean to peace called *Dragon*, with the title vocals provided by a flaming Barnett Parker. The animators drew his male character with fluttering eyelashes, extravagant gestures, and bright red nail polish. The dragon was also given to spouting poetry about upside-down cakes with lines like, "Your bottom is on your top, and your top is on your bottom." Although he does not quote her directly, it appears Elizabeth Taylor was right when she proclaimed in the 1980s that "there would be no Hollywood without homosexuals."

Barrios' work is a treasure for any serious student of gay/lesbian history, or anyone studying the history of film. But *Screened Out*'s "readability" is significantly hampered by hundreds of pages in which Barrios provides narrative descriptions of films and scenes that were originally created for visual consumption. The problem is compounded by a focus on films and actors so obscure or ancient they will only be known to film historians. Yet Barrios has an engaging prose style and a quick wit that allows him to pull off a nearly impossible task with great enthusiasm and humor. ▼

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In the middle of March madness

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Remember "shock and awe?" Hard to believe it's the two-year anniversary of the murderous quagmire in Iraq that began with the big light show over Baghdad on March 19, 2003. One of the great things about TV is the videotape. All those liars from the Bush Administration have now been completely unveiled as what they are: war criminals. What they said then and what we now know to be true — it's all there. Roll tape.

So why is there no trial being convened in The Hague for George Bush, Dick Cheney (who told Tim Russert repeatedly on *Meet the Press* that American troops would be "greeted with open arms and flowers"), Donald Rumsfeld and Condoleezza Rice?

Why is Paul Wolfowitz, who knows less than nothing about world poverty and debt reduction for Third World nations, being handed the sinecure of director of the World Bank when he was one of the chief architects of the war on Iraq?

Republicans in the Bush Congress had no thoughts for the thousands

of dead and injured from the war on Iraq on March 19. There were no memorials, no press conferences, no indicators of regret for the massive casualties among Iraqis or the 1,600+ dead and 15,000+ injured American troops. Thousands dead, not to mention the specter of the tortured at Abu Ghraib, warranted neither individual nor collective response from the Bush cabal and the Republicans in Congress.

Those Republicans were, however, highly vocal, visibly emotional and deeply concerned over the possible death of one brain-damaged American woman, Terri Schiavo. So much so that they convened a special meeting in Congress to propose a bill to keep Schiavo on life-support indefinitely. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, a physician, spoke passionately about Schiavo, as did embattled (and soon-to-be-indicted) Sen. Tom DeLay. They spoke about the horror of Terri being allowed to die, all televised live on CNN and in interruptions to regular programming nationwide and re-capped on the evening news.

But there were no special meetings about the 24 murders — the Pentagon ruled the deaths homicides — of Iraqis in detention that came to light the same week. Nor were there any televised press conferences about the revelation of America's "rendering" suspected terrorists to nations that allow torture, another revelation of the week.

On March 19, instead of focusing on the two-year anniversary of the war, TV news was focused on Schiavo, who has been the subject of a pitched battle between her husband and parents for nearly 15 years since her heart stopped, her brain was deprived of oxygen, and doctors declared her to be in a persistent vegetative state, kept alive only by life-support. Her husband has asserted for years that his wife did not want to be kept alive by artificial means (she has been on a feeding tube and hydration machine as well as occasional ventilator treatments



Michael Schiavo's torment on TV.

over the years). The courts have consistently ruled in Michael Schiavo's favor, and her parents have just as consistently filed new lawsuits to try and overturn those rulings. On March 18, Republicans in Congress attempted but failed to block the ruling that removed the feeding tube from Terri Schiavo on March 19.

The Schiavo case has been the subject of numerous *Nightline*, *Dateline* and *Prime Time* episodes, and has fueled debates on network news and tabloid TV. Michael Schiavo was grilled again last week on *Nightline*, and was the picture of a man in torment over the state his wife is in and his inability to save her from outsiders determined to ignore her wishes and his rights as her husband.

The case of Terri Schiavo is compelling for queers not only because of the right-to-die issue, but because Michael Schiavo has been placed in the same position queers so often find themselves in, battling with parents of a lover/spouse. In the landmark case of Sharon Kowalski, a lesbian who was severely brain-damaged in a car accident, her partner Karen Thompson fought for years to take care of her. Schiavo has been doing the same.

On ABC on March 18, the nation's premier medical ethicist, Dr. Arthur Kaplan of the University of Pennsylvania, declared the Republican efforts in Congress to be transgressive, breaking all the current rules on who dictates medical decisions for a spouse. Kaplan explained, "For more than 25 years, it has been a spouse, not a sister or a cousin or a parent or some stranger, who makes the decision about medical care for a spouse. To go against that legal reality is simply unethical."

For those wondering why queer marriage is such an issue, they would do well to look to the Schiavo case.

While videotape can expose the bad guys on TV, it also has its perils. There are few Americans who have not seen the video of Terri Schiavo that her parents have taken; it has been broadcast repeatedly. That videotape has fueled the controversy over Schiavo's treatment. Her parents insist she can speak, laugh, cry, and follow a balloon with her eyes. But doctors say these are involuntary movements and sounds, that Schiavo's cortex is dead; she is actually totally unresponsive, even to pain.

But that videotape begs the question. It makes it as if she is very much alive and simply, as one person attending a vigil for

Schiavo noted on the NBC evening news March 18, "a disabled American."

We cannot help but wonder where are the vigils and the moral outrage for the more than 10,000 Americans made permanently disabled by the war on Iraq, 60% of whom have sustained brain injuries. Or why there were no vigils when NBC aired a piece March 12 (intentionally buried in the Saturday newscast?) that American soldiers in Iraq have not been equipped with tourniquets (at a cost of a mere \$20 per soldier), the single most important life-saving aid for any soldier. As one doctor noted succinctly on the newscast, a soldier can bleed to death within five minutes without a tourniquet, but can be kept alive for hours (in time to be treated) with one.

Let's not forget, in the face of all the news about Terri Schiavo and the corresponding lack of news on the anniversary in Iraq, that pro-life means caring about all lives, not just the ones that play to political and constituent sympathies.

Cave dwellers

We were surprised that ABC caved in to Fox in last week's episode of *Boston Legal*, which addressed the banning of Fox News from a high school because, in the words of the principal (played by Chi McBride from David Kelley's last show, *Boston Public*), the newscasts were "neither fair nor balanced" (Fox's copyrighted line about their news) and amounted to hate speech.

Initially, Fox was noted in the script, but ABC decided it needed to come out. We aren't sure why, but the judge ultimately found in favor of the First Amendment, thus Fox was allowed to be aired at the school. Nevertheless, it was an interesting gambit, as Kelley continues to find ways to slam the right in this very edgy, always entertaining show. Can we note yet again that William Shatner and James Spader make a superb couple?

Speaking of superb couplings, we are with Alex on *The OC*: Ryan needs to keep his hands off Marissa. Since Bianca and Maggie left for Paris on *All My Children*, we can only get our network lesbian soap fix from Alex and Marissa. So Ryan: hands off!

That's what Ryan Seacrest had to say to Jason Seacrest, gay porn star, when his namesake did a takeoff (literally) on *American Idol* called *American Porn Star*. As reported on *Celebrity Justice* last week (are we addicted to that show, or what?), Ryan Seacrest took Jason Seacrest to court to preserve the integrity of the *American Idol* franchise and his own good name. The court ruled the porn film needed to be re-shot to make it look less like Ryan Seacrest on the *American Idol* set.

Hmm. Maybe Ryan should take Jay Leno, Jimmy Kimmel and others to court for constantly queer-baiting him. We don't think Jason Seacrest is the real problem here.

Of course, *CJ* is where we go for all the best dish on the stars in trouble. We loved seeing Richard Hatch giving his defense against being a tax cheat there last week. And *CJ* has all the best dish on the Jackson trial. It's a must-see.

Here's what we want to know about the Robert Blake trial. Was it just that the jury thought Bonnie Lee Bakely was despicable and thus deserved to die, did they think all the hitmen were day players, or did they really think the

prosecution hadn't made its case against Blake?

Speaking of *Blind Justice*, as much as we miss *NYPD Blue*, we think *BJ* is a very good show, and we like the concept of a disabled person as the focus of a major network drama. We also like that Nate's in a wheelchair on the exceptionally funny *Committed*, which we originally only tuned into to watch Mrs. Melissa Etheridge, Tammy Lynn Michaels, every week. But *Committed* is well worth a look.



John Stamos in *Jake in Progress*

Speaking of midseason shows, we were prepared to dislike ABC's *Jake in Progress*, starring the hunky John Stamos and the hilarious Wendy Malick (*Just Shoot Me*), as just another het-fest, but it's surprisingly good and edgy. We liked that the second episode featured a version of the queer-eye guys and turned the topic of outing on its head by making one of the boys a closeted straight. Interesting. And very funny. Rick Hoffman (*Philly*) is tremendous.

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A family affair

Duane Cramer's good look back at family photographs

by Jim Nawrocki

Photographer Duane Cramer is well-known for his portraiture. His subjects have included luminaries such as Jesse Norman, Brooke Shields and former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown. He has also produced distinguished studies of the male and female nude. His work has graced the pages of such publications as *Harper's Bazaar*, *Blue and Out*, and is included in public and private collections around the world. But Cramer's most recent exhibit, on display at San Francisco International Airport until the end of April, is not so much a display of his photographic mastery as it is a highly personal collective portrait of his family's rich history.

Family Focus: A Look at Fashion Through Historic Family Photographs is an exhibit made up of portraits from Cramer's personal collection spanning five generations of his family's life in the United States. The photographs, nearly all of them taken in the cities of Houston, Nagadoches and Belleville, Texas, span a period from the 1890s to the present.

Although the photographs in the exhibit are displayed with the intention of highlighting the role of clothing and fashion in communicating personal identity, there is a startling intimacy to the images that captures the viewer's attention in a way that seems to transcend the particulars of time, place and fashion. In one early photograph of two female relatives, for example, the two young subjects lean into each other as one gazes intently at the viewer and the other stares off dreamily. It's an image that, despite



Two young cousins lean into each other as one looks dreamily away.

its obvious period detail, seems purely rooted in the present.

In a recent conversation about this collection of family portraits, Cramer pointed out that he realized he wanted to highlight the fashion in the photographs only after he had already begun the work of arranging them for the exhibit. "I started to see that certain fashions or styles of dress come back over time," he noted. "Fashion is about nonverbal communication, which is very compatible with still photography. It is a moment in time that can cap-

ture and accent gender, class, social status, authority and pride."

The one photograph in the exhibition that Cramer actually took himself is a recent portrait of his young nephew, Drake Joseph, and an equally young Charles Phillips. It's an image that represents the fifth generation of Cramer's family born in the US. Most of the exhibit's photographs depict much earlier eras. "There are very few images that seem to exist of African American men, women and children from [these eras]," said Cramer. "They either simply do not exist, or they are rarely published or seen in our history books. This is one of the reasons I believe it is important to bring them to life for the world to view."

Against invisibility

Cramer noted that, historically, images of the early African American experience have been subject to a kind of "relative invisibility. In some respects, I believe my family was exceptional in terms of the general historical record," he said. "There were towns in America, and commercial districts, with black businesses and successful, accomplished



A friend with Joe Cramer, Sr., circa 1915, in Houston, Texas.

[black] people. It's just that the historical records, over time, have omitted black images and accomplishments. There's a need to bring black people and other images of people of color forward in a natural and authentic way."

Cramer's family has been very supportive of this project, but it has been, in many ways, a difficult and very personal project. "This was not an easy project. Much work and resources have gone into it, and it's ongoing. It is intensely personal, and it helps me answer the question, Who am I? I had many emotional moments when I came across images of my father, who died of AIDS-related complications 20 years ago."

He has drawn inspiration, both artistic and personal, from his father, who was a professor and a strong supporter of the arts, and from other accomplished family members. These include his uncle Edsel Cramer, a painter and sculptor; and Mary L. Jackson-Fears, a writer who has published books about African American history.

Cramer's collection of family

photographs is nothing short of remarkable in its scope and quality. Family members bequeathed or donated the photos to him over the years and also provided documentation and verbal descriptions of many of the pictures. Collecting family photographs and hearing the stories about the people in them, Cramer has learned a lot about his family, including stories about mixed-race and some same-sex relationships, but these relationships were not necessarily labeled in terms that we would use today. They were, he says, "acknowledged, respected and accepted, and that is the way it was. Family members were, and are, loved and accepted. The rule within the family seems to be live and let live, and as far as I can tell, all members of my family are loved and respected." ▼

Duane Cramer's exhibit **Family Focus** is on display at the San Francisco International Airport through April. Info at www.duanecramer.com.

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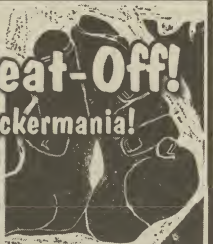
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MUSIC

Better late than never

Takacs Quartet tackles Beethoven's last quartets

by Tim Pfaff

Proust called "Beethoven's last quartets" (along with the music of Franck and Fauré) his "principal spiritual nourishment," and on several occasions in 1916 had musicians brought to and from his home by taxi to play them for him. Welcome (and rare) as they are in concert, the late Beethoven quartets are even better private music, which may account for the largesse of superlative recordings they have spawned.

Over the years, I've been promiscuous about my first-choice recording of them (if always happy to come back to the Hollywood Quartet's). As could be anticipated from the Takács Quartet's many-times prize-winning sets of the early and middle quartets, its new three-CD set of "The Lates," including Op. 95, for Decca is as good as any other in the catalogue. Besides, the Takács has the edge as the first quartet to play these works, often considered the pinnacles of Western classical music, from the new Henle critical edition, which corrects important (and audible) errors in previous editions of the scores. That — but more, the Takács' bracing musicianship throughout — makes this the first set I will reach for when it's music's heights I'm after.

Locally, the thrill of this release was nearly eclipsed by the almost simultaneous announcement that the Quartet — violinists Edward Dusinberre and Károly Schranz, violist Roger Tapping, and cellist András Fejér — has lured San Francisco Symphony principal violist Geraldine Walther to take Tapping's place in the 30-year-old group. Much as she'll be missed, she's going to a better place.

Ambient sounds

by Jason Victor Serinus

Sumgilia — Savina Yannatou (ECM)

At first she sounds like a Greek Enya. The voice is exceptionally soulful and sweet on high, complete with the breathy aura favored by many contemporary female vocalists. But then Savina Yannatou's highly idiosyncratic personality begins to assert itself. When she sings lower in the range, Yannatou's longing can assume the edgy, plaintive timbre of Edith Piaf's. On a Greek song from South Italy, she sounds aged and cracked, virtually whispering the words. Whatever the emotions, including some that are high-spirited, Savina Yannatou's reaction is unique.

The expressiveness of the accompanying violin on the opening Greek wedding song is also exceptional, with song introductions and accompaniment by the six-person Primavera en Salonico band becoming more vital as Yannatou ventures from Greece to Albania, Palestine, Armenia, Corsica, Bulgaria and the Ukraine. The musicians display remarkable versatility on accordion, tamboura,

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While many of the Takács' competitors have taken the attitude that the late quartets move to a realm that's beyond mere mortal music (and perform them with their wired-on haloes wagging), the Takács digs into this supremely challenging music with its characteristic aplomb, acuity and relish. A cliché (of commentators, not musicians) about these pieces is that they are the work of a composer who no longer took into account the physical limitations of either instruments or the people who play them. The Takács avoids the twin pitfalls of making them sound either hard or easy, and

simply demonstrates instead what essentially, if profoundly, human music this is.

The musicians consistently get the full measure of expression out of the lofty passages that are among the most famous passages, without ever faking an ecstasy. As or more important, they miss none of Beethoven's wit, much of which flies past at flashing, confounding tempos. The quartet's tone is rich and wondrously energized — even the most tranquil passages have a pulse — without ever sounding overwrought, an occupational hazard with these pieces.

The Takács musicians have absorbed one of the central tenets of historically informed performers, namely, that vibrato is an expressive effect to be applied in varying degrees to specific ends, not to be laid on as a constant in the string tone.

Their measure of the emotional weight of the pieces is shrewd to the point of cunning. When the utmost seriousness is called for — as in the "Holy Song of Thanks-

giving from a Convalescent to the Deity," the composer's deeply felt gratitude for the end of a period of acute intestinal infection (a movement one grasps in a more immediate way after a few years in Asia) — it's delivered undiluted but without sentimentality. But it's the Vivace and Presto movements, and their subito (sudden, unexpected) cousins that pop up throughout these marvelous works, that find the Takács in peak form. They gasp for their reasons (you can hear it), you gasp for yours.

Hard crush

You feel it most in Op. 131, the seven-movement quartet that is the only one meant to be played without pause between movements. The sheer profligacy of Beethoven's ideas here (the second to the last of the quartets) — the rasp of slow against fast, the crush of cross-rhythms, the motifs piling up with prodigal abundance — elicits a performance of unrelenting brio yet complete integra-

tion from the Takács.

The Grosse Fuge, Op. 133 (Beethoven's original final movement for Op. 130, which his publisher finally convinced him to replace with the more listener-friendly Finale: Allegro) appears on CD 3 in the position Beethoven originally intended it, followed by the "new" Finale, giving listeners an easy choice or the opportunity to compare. The Takács gives it the most unbridled yet disciplined performance I know, an orgy of string playing that brings the shocking modernity of the music forcefully to the fore.

Despite the magisterial brilliance of their performance of it, it's hard not to believe that their personal preference is for the lighter Finale. The untrammelled exuberance with which they throw off the whirlwind of Op. 135, Beethoven's last completed work, leaves little doubt that it is the grinning, sharp-witted Beethoven to whom they pledge final allegiance. ▼

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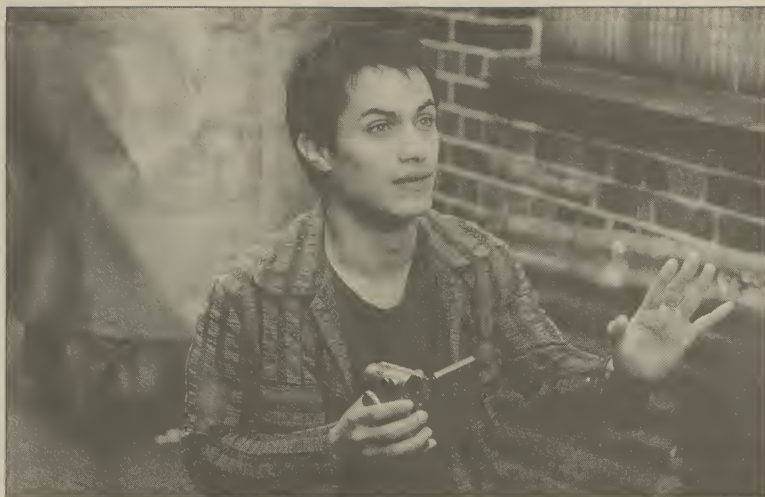
Bernal smolders in 'Dot the i'

by David Lamble

A film that begins with a kiss by Mexican sensation Gael Garcia Bernal in his first English-speaking role brings with it the dilemma of impossible expectations. For a while, *Dot the i* (the title never quite makes sense, but that's a minor quibble) looks like it will deliver the goods. Gael's character Kit, a struggling young actor from Brazil, kisses Carmen (Natalia Verbeke) in a crowded London restaurant on the eve of her marriage to a wealthy if emotionally constipated young nob named Barnaby (James D'Arcy).

As one would expect after a lip-lock from Gael, Carmen loses her bearings and wonders if she's doing the right thing. Barnaby (the name has never really recovered from the blow dealt it by Melville) comes across as too much of a wuss for anyone to marry who wasn't desperate for a green card.

From the devious young man who trains fighting dogs for money to steal his brother's wife in *Amores Perros*, to the village priest who corrupts a young woman in *The Crime of Father Amaro*, to the tangled web of pederasty, blackmail and murder in *Bad Education*, Gael has specialized in characters whom we forgive because they constantly remind us how much fun all the good sins are when executed with abandon. *Dot the i* writer/director Matthew Parkhill admits that the impulse to cast Gael as Kip came from seeing his incendiary feature debut in *Amores Perros*, where he sweats and reddens at the prospect of sex with his brother's wife, where his eyes blaze when he stabs the bastard who shoots his dog. It's not that Gael can't play a good person, it's just that he shouldn't be saddled with portraying a passive bloke. It's fine for him to speak English (especially with just the trace of a Scottish accent), but not



Gael Garcia Bernal plays a struggling young actor from Brazil in London in the new thriller *Dot the i*.

be English.

Despite a pranky romp through a snotty hotel and one good bed scene (with above-the-waist Gael nudity), Carmen and Kip never really get down and dirty. We gradually realize that Carmen is being pursued by a video stalker, a conceit that kidnaps the film and squeezes the life out of it. Parkhill seems to be aiming for a *sex, lies and videotape*-like fable where a trio of characters are trapped in a web of illusion fueled by both technology and their per-

sonal flaws. But instead of catharsis, the meltdown that occurs when Parkhill reveals his twist stops the movie in its tracks. The second, coda-like movie that ensues ties up all the ends, but never registers emotionally.

Everybody seems to be holding back. D'Arcy's performance especially suffers from the Jekyll and Hyde syndrome that results from an actor under- and overemoting in the same film. Verbeke gives a good account of herself as a woman with a tragic past, now

frozen in indecision. The Flamen-co scene that she serviceably performs seems a little tacked on, to provide an exotic touch. Even Gael seems a bit lost at times, as if the language change were inhibiting his normally surefire instincts on how to max out a scene. *Dot the i* is okay, but when your lead combines the look of a Goya painting, the sensuality of a young Ramon Novarro, and the comic skills and romantic potential of a Cary Grant, just okay is a big let-down. *Opens Friday.* ▼

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D.E.B.S.

◀ Arts cover

budget feature version. The deal came with this proviso: give us a love story capable of holding 90 minutes of screentime without violating the movie industry's taboos for a PG-13 mall flick. This was a challenge that Robinson realized she had been raised to meet.

"My babysitter was a total slacker, so she used to just drop me off at the mall after school, and I'd go see movies over and over again. Somewhere between *Clash of the Titans* and *Love at*

First Bite, I became a film-lover."

Robinson grew up in a family she describes as the only "Democrats on the hill," in Palos Verdes, an insanely rich community that my *Rand McNally Road Atlas* depicts as one huge golf course 45 minutes south of L.A. The town's pristine beaches and McMansions comprise the Orange County exteriors for Fox's *The O.C.* At an early age, Robinson learned the cinema boundaries between camp, satire and plain old way-over-the-top. A little girl who can segue between the boundless absurdity of Laurence Olivier and Maggie Smith in togas (trapped in a movie so bad that *Video Hound's* critic describes them as "in need of enemas as they lurch about Mt. Olympus") and the sight of George Hamilton sporting a perfect tan in a career-saving vampire spoof is ripe to give us a sexy but not too sexy action-caper-romance set in a sorority house packed full of lesbian kick-ass spy-chasers. The odd beauty of *D.E.B.S.* is its ability to channel a kind of Hayley Mills-like innocence into characters straight out of the wacky, late-'60s James Bond TV spoof *Get Smart*. There are moments when you almost expect Amy, Lucy or their saucy sidekicks to start a sentence with, "Would you believe...?"

Robinson, relaxing in a luxury suite at a San Francisco waterfront hotel, explains the secret that allowed her to turn short into feature. "I was excited when I finally hit on this wrong-side-of-the-tracks idea of the hero falling in love with the villain, then working backwards to how they met and what happened when they were discovered. The short's a little broader than the feature, but I thought we needed to kind of bring the tone down a little, because I really wanted people to invest in the characters, for them to have a reality but still keep the farcical nature of the universe they're running around in."

Robinson admits that with *D.E.B.S.*, she was trying to provide



D.E.B.S. has a certain *Get Smart* sensibility.

a whiff of first-love nostalgia that avoids total suds with a bratty stream of adolescent humor.

"The film's very earnest in a lot of places, and has this kind of incredible sweetness to it, and then I undercut it with the comedy so that you alternate between a really sweet moment and then a joke. I was really trying to capture the wistful time in your life when you meet somebody who sends you spinning totally for a loop. I was paying homage to a lot of teen movies that I grew up with, trying to capture that innocence."

A hot sex scene was shot with Amy and Lucy, but it ultimately was cut to preserve the movie's PG-13 rating — a first, she believes, for a queer-themed feature. Negotiations are underway to get the sex scene back for the DVD version of *D.E.B.S.*

A tab of boy-power adds fizz to *D.E.B.S.* in the person of newcomer Jimmy Simpson, who plays Lucy Diamond's right-hand man. Robinson says that Simpson, who has the nerdy, post-punk charm and puckish humor of Pansy Division founder and lead singer Jon Ginoli, was one of those lucky casting breaks who takes the movie up a notch in comic energy and genre credibility. "Jimmy Simpson is so brilliant, and he

brought so much to what's normally just the sidekick character. He actually managed to bring this depth and comedy to a part which ends up being Lucy's conscience, guiding her to pursue this relationship when her natural inclination would be to cut and run."

Also boosting the sizzle of the love story is Amy's sidekick Max. "Meagan Good is incredible, she's such a bad ass! She really had a grounding to her character, 'cause she's kind of the antagonist of the piece. There needed to be some stakes to this universe, I didn't want it to be so campy that you didn't care about the characters. Meagan had to be menacing in a way, but I thought she brought a lot of humanity to the role that could be like 'the bitchy girl.'"

D.E.B.S. opens Friday, so it's up to its core audience to give it the opening-weekend box office numbers that will make possible the sequel Robinson's already plotting in her head. Meanwhile, the Brown University/NYU film school grad, Spike Lee intern (on the controversial *Summer of Sam*) and first-season staff writer on *The L Word* is wrapping her first Disney studio commission, *Herbie: Fully Loaded*, a women's racing-car flick shot under broiling desert temperatures. ▼

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BOOKS

Rules of order in summer camp

Under 'Order of the Poison Oak' with Brent Hartinger

by Gregg Shapiro

In *The Order of the Poison Oak*, Brent Hartinger's sequel to the award-winning, gay-themed young adult novel *Geography Club*, the characters venture off campus, taking the reader along with them. Set during the summer after protagonist Russel Middlebrook's high school coming out, the novel follows Russel and best friends Min and Gunnar to a summer camp where they will be working as counselors. While there, they will encounter new conflicts that eventually strengthen them. I spoke with Hartinger about his new novel and his popular characters.

Gregg Shapiro: In your acknowledgments, you thank Bret Tiderman, "whose memories of his own experiences as a summer camp counselor were so detailed that it almost felt as if I'd been a counselor, too." Since you weren't a camp counselor yourself, what made you want to write about it?

Brent Hartinger: I wanted [the setting] to be an adult-free environment like *Geography Club*, and I knew I didn't want it to be a high school campus, I wanted something different. When I put those two things together, summer camp came sort of naturally. I knew what Russel wanted to deal with, which was "OK, what happens next," and I knew at that

point he would be really sick of being the gay kid, he would want to get away. It was a way to wipe the slate clean, start all over and introduce new characters.

My attitude toward sequels is people think they want to know what's going to happen next in the same story, but when they read a sequel that's basically a continuation of the same story, they're inevitably disappointed, because that story, if it was told well, is over. I wanted to tell a whole new story, and I felt like to do that I needed a whole new setting and some new characters.

I met Bret at my third reading for *Geography Club*. He was 21, still in college. I mentioned summer camp and he said, "I was a counselor for six years. I loved it, and it changed my life." I thought I had a handle on summer camp because I was already writing the book, yet he was able to give me great details, like "camp stew," which is when the cook takes all the leftovers from the week and mixes it together. If you can eat it, you get a prize.

Russel, Min and Gunnar don't get jobs as counselors at any old summer camp. At Camp Serenity, the first campers of the season are burn survivors.

I wanted the central conceit of the book to be about another club that you wouldn't think you'd want to join. I heard a radio program where they were interview-

ing a burn survivor, and I was struck by how I totally got what he was talking about. Because of the gay thing, I related to everything he was saying. It's one way to give straight people another way to look at the issue of being gay. Maybe look at it from a slightly different point of view, and maybe also help gay people look at the issue from a different point of view.

One of the campers figures out how Russel qualifies to be a member of the Order of the Poison Oak without being a burn survivor; he is gay. Do you think children are more perceptive than maybe some people give them credit for being?

I think some are; as gay kids, a lot of us probably were. I think a burn survivor would have that sort of sensitivity, too. The reason the character of Russel resonated with so many gay kids was that he's constantly playing the angles, looking around and gauging the safety of the situation, and comparing his popularity to other people. I think that's a characteristic of a lot of gay people, and of burn survivors.

There was a slightly more erotic edge to this book, from the descriptions of Web to some of the physical activities between Russel and Web.

With *Geography Club*, I heard from a lot of straight people's parents, "Oh my god, it's going to

make people uncomfortable, it's so explicit, so raw in its sexuality." I heard from gay people, "It's so squeaky clean." So it's all your point of view.

The second book is a little bit about developing sexuality and what it means to be tempted. It gave me a chance to explore Russel's maturity. I also thought, when I set it at a summer camp, I had to have them skinny-dipping. Summer camp is, for a lot of gay kids, for a lot of kids period, a more sexual place. It also gave me an opportunity to deal with the issue of safer sex, which I think every gay teenager who is sexually active has to deal with, and it's a really complicated issue these days.

Do you have an infinite number of stories to tell with Russel as the protagonist?

Absolutely, I really do. I'm a big believer that the coming out story is over, the story of the gay teenager realizing he is gay and dealing with that has been done to death, and the next wave of gay teen literature is going to be gay teen books where the kids just happen to be gay. That's not the central struggle of the book, it's not about them being gay, it's about other things. In *Poison Oak*, their being gay informs the story, it's an important part of the story, but it's not the story. Now that I look at those stories like that, I've got an endless possibility of stories to write.



"I've got endless stories to write."

Do you envision following this character into adulthood?

Probably not. If I did continue, it would be like *The Simpsons* or *Peanuts* in that he would grow old, but very slowly. He would be 17 in the next book, and in the book after that, maybe he would turn 18.

You also write fantasy novels. Do you ever see the two worlds intersecting, having a character in one of your young adult books reading one of the fantasy novels?

I think that breaks the fourth wall a little bit and would not fit. I don't want to be that nepotistic! I just think that would distract the reader, it would remind them that they're reading a book. Although, in *Poison Oak*, when he tells the legend of Rainbow Crow, Russel says, "I read about that in a book on the American frontier." He's really referring to my partner Michael Jensen's book *Firelands*, which also includes that story. ▼

Ambient

◀ page 37

oud, guitar, double bass, violin, viola, percussion, qanun, kalimba and ney.

The second track's Galician melody features savage drumming, the intro to a traditional Moldavian song is strange and mystical, and the start of a traditional South Italian number inspires the band to go positively wild. Strangest of all is the Greek traditional lullaby that ends the disc, like no other lullaby I've ever heard. Though Yannatou has been recording for 25 years, her performances are as fresh as anything you will encounter. A cult following is guaranteed.

My Secret Heart - Michael Whalen (Narada)

If it's romantic, ambient music

you're after, you'll be hard-pressed to find a warmer, more accessible source than Michael Whalen's latest disc. The man has spent years honing his ability to cut to the chase and grab you. His Emmy-awarded music has graced TV and film projects, and scores for HBO, National Geographic, and PBS. Perhaps he's best known for his theme for ABC's *Good Morning America*.

My Secret Heart features Whalen playing 10 of his own compositions on Yamaha electronic piano. The melodies are simple, sweet, and unquestionably loving. They're also very slow and relaxed, with lots of space and ambience between notes. Publicity proclaims the disc "a perfect accompaniment for quiet contemplation and relaxation with the one you love." It works just as well for a solo excursion or as background for dining or bodywork. ▼

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OUT & ABOUT



The musical version of Voltaire's *Candide* hits the stage as The Lamplighters take over the Herbst Theatre. See Saturday



Hop aboard the Easter bus with Heklina and Peaches Christ as Trannyshack heads up to Reno for rousing fun. See Saturday.

tary hors d'oeuvres & \$3 well drinks including Cosmos from 5-9pm. Located at 1772 Market St. at Octavia St. Info: 415-863-3516; www.octavialounge.com

Candide — In Concert @ Herbst Theatre

New for 2005: The Lamplighters introduce the "Gas Lamp Spring Operetta Series." Patrons get one more chance to hear those great Lamplighters voices and that unparalleled orchestra as they present an operatic work from the world of Broadway or the classical stage in semi-staged, concert format. The series debuts with the heralded *Candide: In Concert*, based upon the work of Voltaire with a brilliant musical score composed by Leonard Bernstein. Journey around the world alongside young Candide as he ultimately discovers the very meaning of life. \$30. 8pm. Mar. 26 only. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave. Tix: 415-392-4400; sfmpac.org/herbst/ht_index.html

Trannyshack Reno Road-Trip

Heklina in association with Peaches Christ presents the 8th annual Trannyshack Reno Road-Trip on Easter weekend, March 26-27. Join the antics as irreverent drag queens, drag kings, faux queens, and "other" mount a Trannyshack show in Reno, Nevada. The show is the focal point for an entire adventure. Peaches Christ is your tour guide/hostess on a round-trip bus journey complete with an on-board fashion show, video entertainment, live performance, lip-synch roulette and more. Enjoy cultural liberation at rest-stops and fast-food restaurants along the way. Return trip tradition dictates that prizes will be awarded for best drag, most original, and drunkiest. The bus departs from SF at noon on Sat., Mar. 26. Bus passengers enjoy fab overnight accommodations at historic Colonial Motor Inn. The Trannyshack show happens Sat. night at Reno's Ten99 Club. Bus passengers check-out on Sunday a.m. and head to Boomtown for Easter brunch and last-minute gambling. The busses then head back to SF for a Sunday evening arrival. \$110 (includes round-trip coach bus fare; one night stay at the Colonial Motor Inn; and admission to the Trannyshack show at the Ten99 Club. Tix available at Retrofit Vintage Clothing, 910 Valencia St. at 20th. Cash and personal checks accepted. Info: www.peacheschrist.com

Anarchist Book Fair @ Golden Gate Park

Bound Together Anarchist Collective Book Store presents the tenth annual Bay Area Anarchist Book Fair. Featured speakers this year include Professor Ward Churchill, artist Eric Drooker, novelist Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, co-editor of the 5th Estate Magazine Sunfrog, writer John Zerzan, musician and novelist Lynne Breedlove, author Chris Carlsson, writer and editor Barry Pateman and spoken word troop Entartete Kunst. In addition there will be an art exhibit. The SF workers collective Arizmendi Bakery will be selling food and beverages at the Café. Free admission. Sat., Mar. 26, 10am-6pm. SF County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park (near Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way). Info: 415-431-8355.

69 Art 4 AIDS @ Center for Sex & Culture Gallery

Opening reception: 69 Art 4 AIDS. Fixed price erotic art show, sale and live auction complete with door prizes, entertainment and refreshments, benefiting the San Francisco AIDS Candlelight Vigil and the Association François-Xavier Bagnoud (FXB) assisting AIDS orphans internationally. \$10-\$25 requested donation. Artwork will be sold for a fixed price of \$69 to introduce more folks into the world of art collecting; plus select items in a live auction. Sat., Mar. 26, 6-9pm Artists' reception; 9pm-Midnight Entertainment & Live Auction. Center For Sex & Culture Gallery, 398 11th St. Info: 69Art4AIDS@Gottblow.org

Annual Spring Bling Bling @ iClub Paci!

iClub Paci presents its "Annual Spring Bling Bling", a Latino Go-Go Boy Explosion featuring 10 of the West Coast's hottest dancers: Giovanni and Boyz from L.A. In the Main Room: DJs Marco & Carlitos. Hip Hop Room: DJ Jorge Terez. Salsa/merengue room: DJ Chilli D. CD giveaways. Beer & vodka drink specials all night. State-of-the-art sound/lighting/lasers. Smoking patio w/food service. Plenty of free parking. \$15 cover (\$3 off b4 11pm w/flyer, ad, VIP card, web printout, 10pm-4am, 21+ w/ID. Info: 415-675-9763; www.clubpaci.com; www.space550.com

DRUNK & HORNY @ Underground SF

Jeff and Gary present the return of "DRUNK & HORNY", now more DrunkNer & more HORNIER than ever. Drunk DJ's: Big Red; Andre; Swinkidid. Drunk Go GO's: Jessie; Khalil; and Kieron. Midnight Beer Bong "Schlong" with the DRUNK & HORNY Hotties. Live Drunk Murals with Horny Artist Mark Padilla. Intoxicated Visual Projections by Ca-Ca-Ca-Cory. Stumble in early & beat the rush. This messy party is made possible with the help from Mark Padilla, Marvin Miller, Santiago, and drunk people like you. 4th Saturdays. All at the NEW GaYS-owned bar in the Lower Haight, Underground SF, 424 Haight Street (at Webster).

Fri 25

Francisco Ibáñez-Carrasco @ A Different Light Bookstore

Chilean-Canadian author Francisco Ibáñez-Carrasco, Canada's reigning bad boy of lit, reads from *Killing Me Softly: Morir Amando* (Suspect Thoughts Press). Genre-blurring, gender-bending tales of love gone wrong, with rough trade, demented drag queens, mail order brides, illegal aliens, out-of-this-world shapeshifters, machos y maricones, gringos and grifters, homeless squeegee kids, people living with AIDS, the hideously burned, and the easily forgotten. Free. Fri., Mar. 25 at 7pm. 489 Castro St. Info: 415-431-0891; www.adlbooks.com

DJ Spooky's Rebirth of a Nation @ YBCA Theater

As part of its ongoing exploration of art and politics, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts presents the multimedia performance piece *Rebirth of a Nation* by Paul D. Miller aka DJ Spooky That Subliminal Kid. *Rebirth of a Nation* pulls images from D.W. Griffith's highly controversial 1915 silent film, *The Birth of a Nation*, an epic saga of the Civil War, and remixes them on three giant screens accompanied by a score written and performed by DJ Spooky. Created to inspire people to think about how myths are shaped by media such as television and film, the piece addresses *Birth of a Nation's* technique and content. The film employed cinematic innovations for its time. Showtimes: Fri. & Sat., Mar. 25 & 26 at 8pm. \$32-\$45 Regular/\$24-\$34 Members, Students, Teachers/\$29-\$41 Seniors. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater (700 Howard Street @ 3rd. Tix/info: 415-978-ARTS (2787); www.ybca.org

Philanthropy Mother @ Theatre Rhinoceros

I Said Theatre presents *Philanthropy Mother*, an original play written and directed by Mike Tosca. When Harry enters the kitchen of his family's home one grey morning, he makes a shocking discovery in the refrigerator. Or does he? *Philanthropy Mother* is a dark comedy that deals with family relationships, possible patricide, and food spoilage. The play wrestles with life's big questions: Is Harry's father dead? Has someone stuffed his body in the refrigerator? And, most importantly, has the milk gone bad? \$12 pre-sale; \$15 at door. 8:30 pm on March 24, 25, 26. Theatre Rhino, 2926 16th St. Info: 415-621-7809; www.isaidtheatre.org

MOBU Dance Group @ Jon Sims Center

MOBU Dance Group presents "Shizukudrop," featuring live music by Jorge Bachman and costume design by Kristine Pierce. \$10-\$15. 25 & 26 March @ 8pm. Jon Sims Center for the Arts (JSC) 1519 Mission. Tel: 415.554.0402 ext. 2 #; www.jonsimsctr.org

Strong Current Dance Co. @ ODC Theater

Kirstin E. Williams, Artistic Director of Strong Current Dance Company, presents *Quiet Pressure*, unveiling the nuanced silence surrounding the social expectations of women as mothers. The art and poetry of *The Sisters Project* is featured. An installation, "Pieces of Mind," opens the show to move audience members through choreo-

graphic images that interrogate the unspoken truths of war. City College of SF Hip Hop dancers respond to the social/spiritual ramifications of incarceration. The show closes with a ritualistic mosaic of choreographic healing, "Bleeding Heart." \$18 adv; \$20 door (NOTAFLOR). 8pm Mar. 24-26 & Mar. 31-Apr. 2. ODC Theater, 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell). Tix: 415-863-9834.

Lillies @ Zeum Theater

Theatre Rhino in collaboration with the A.C.T. Conservatory Master of Fine Arts Program presents Marc Bouchard's *Lillies*, or *The Revival of a Romantic Drama*. Inmates of a Quebec prison re-enact the devastating tale of an impassioned love between two young men at a Catholic boys' school in rural Canada in 1912. Starring A.C.T. core company member Gregory Wallace. *Lillies* plays in repertory with *Female Transport*. 8pm Mar. 25, 27, 30, 31. April 2. 2pm Mar. 26 & Apr. 1. Show runs thru Apr. 1 at the Zeum Theater, Yerba Buena Gardens, 221 4th St. Tix/info: A.C.T. Box Office, 415-749-2ACT.

Lizz Roman & Dancers' CellGround @ CellSpace

Lizz Roman & Dancers present *CellGround*, a site-specific installation designed for the architecture of CellSpace. Featuring nine dancers and a live soundscore by Alex Kelly (cello) and Clyde Sheets (DJ). Roman turns the cavernous warehouse/theater into a multi-tiered dancers' playground as dancers utilize the rafters, beams, ramps, banisters, stairs, roof, walls, doorways, counters and ladders to explore the raw elements of the building's architecture. \$20 gen'l adm. 8pm Thu.-Sat., March 24-26. CellSpace, 2050 Bryant St. at 19th St. Tix: 415-269-1283.

Miss Coco Peru Is Undaunted! @ NCTC

The New Conservatory Theatre Center presents the NCTC and San Francisco debut of the one-and-only Miss Coco Peru in her newest cabaret show, *Miss Coco Peru Is Undaunted!* An intelligent, musical and witty drag autobiographic monologue with New York-style satire. \$30 Thu.-Sun.; \$25 Wed. Runs thru April 3, Wed.-Sat. at 8pm and Sun. at 2pm. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Tix: 415-861-8972; www.nctcsf.org

Sat 26

Baila Conmigo

The Metronome Dance Center invites you to enjoy "Baila Conmigo: Queer Latin Dance Night." Held on the 4th Saturday of each month. 7pm Potluck/Food. 7:30-8:30pm Beginning Dance Lesson (Merengue in March). 8:30-11:30pm Dancing to Salsa, Cha-Cha, Argentine Tango, Rumba, Merengue (& more!) music. 9:30pm Performances. \$15 for Lesson & Dancing. \$8 for Dancing only. Info: 415-252-9000; metronomedancecenter.com

Veronica Klaus

Michael's Octavia Lounge, A Cabaret & Supper Club, presents Veronica Klaus every Saturday night at 11pm. Enjoying universal acclaim for her hit show *FAMILY JEWELS—The Making of Veronica Klaus*, the diva is in top form. Be among the select to see her in this intimate setting. Complimen-

Calendare by Mark Mardon



From the Angels' milieu to the world music stage: Tuxedomoon

Tuxedomoon over SF

They came together from all parts of the globe to give back to San Francisco last Saturday night at Cafe Du Nord what the city gave them in the late 1970s: a cool New Wave vibe. They are Tuxedomoon, and though they were born out of the electronic music lab of San Francisco City College some 27 years ago, and contributed to the queer Angels of Light scene, they now dwell continents apart, with Steven Brown in Mexico, Peter Principle in New York, Blaine Reininger in Greece, and Dutch trumpet player Luc Van Lieshout (who joined the band in 1985) residing in Brussels. They're currently on world tour for the release of *Cabin in the Sky*, a new CD that's instantly a collector's item in San Francisco, birthplace of the Angels of Light queer performance collective, where Steven Brown of Tuxedomoon played music with exquisite style.

It was photographer and keeper of the flame of Harvey Milk's spirit, Dan Nicoletta, who turned me on to the band's music and history, and alerted me to the rare concert, which had Cafe Du Nord packed tight with old fans and new. He's an old intimate of Tuxedomoon's still sexy Steven Brown, who he got to know when he photographed the Angels of Light back in the day. Brown is a multitasker on stage, handling the electronics, keyboard, sax, clarinet and lead vocals. For a man of a certain age, he looks every bit the rock star (think post-glam David Bowie), and has a powerful, haunting voice akin to Brendan Perry's of Dead Can Dance, but more agile, nuanced and daring. At the Du Nord show, he'd rush from keyboards to sax, joining trumpeter Luc for fierce jazzy conversations as Blaine riffed on guitar or violin and Peter grounded the space with his sturdy stance and powerful bass guitar. The guys in this band show what happens with New Wave/No-Wave, gothic post-punk veterans who've kept up their musical chops and maintain their connections: they become solid, dependable acts — not necessarily what you'd expect of a band connected to the flighty Angels of Light.

They played songs off *Cabin In The Sky*, as well as earlier repertoire, and I'm not sure if I'd call what they do jazz, but it has many jazzy elements, mixed with gnashing, psychedelically electronics so novel and deftly folded into the live mix that even jaded Bang-On A-Can new-music followers would be thrilled. It's not pop, but it has pop appeal, and it's certainly not hard-core punk, but it has a punkish cachet. When performance-art legend Winston Tong joined the band for an encore number, the seasoned crowd practically swooned. This was everything the old-timers could hope for, and for a while, it was the 1970s and early '80s all over again. ▼



Resurrect yourself at Dolores Park with Sister Bearlesque, Sister Sindy Vine, The Easter Bunny, Sister Banana Nut Bread, and Novice Sister Peg Anne Love Holiday. Enter the "Hunky Jesus Contest" See Sunday.

Sun 27

Indulgence in the Park

@ Dolores Park

Continuing their mission to promulgate Universal Joy, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc. present "Indulgence in the Park," an Easter picnic and celebration. This event brings together children, families, friends, artists, and community activists to celebrate the Sisters' 26th Anniversary and enjoy a day in Dolores Park. The event is free to the public. Vivacious stage performances by such celebs as Kitten on the Keys, Trauma Flintstone, and The Ethel Mermen Experience, plus one of the Sisters' favorite local bands, Polkacide, will be celebrating their 20th anniversary. Easter Bonnet Contest happens at 1pm. Participants line up to parade across the stage in their Easter finest. At 3:15pm, this year's "Hunky Jesus" will be chosen. Winner of each contest receives \$100 cash prize. The Sisters will be raising money for a whole year of grants awards. Says Sister Roxanne Roles: "The Sisters just love to give as much as we get, and we dig it when you dig deeply. Contributing to our Grants fund makes your gift last all year long." "Indulgence in the park happens Sun., Mar. 27, 11am-4pm. Dolores Park (20th & Dolores). Free to the public. Info: www.thesisters.org

Gregorian Chant for World Peace @ Golden Gate Park

Gay men singing Medieval Gregorian Chant with organ and bells clad in Franciscan brown robes? Yes! In Golden Gate Park this Easter Sunday? Yes! High drama queens every where? Yes! Handsome young, brown-robed men assisting with the bells and incense? Yes yes! It's the "Gregorian Chant for World Peace" presented by the Franciscan Brothers of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, featuring Early and Medieval Liturgical Chant of the Old Latin Rite sung all in Latin with organ effects and occasional bells. The Introit, Kyrie, Gloria & Offertory are sung with incense; Glorias are sung with festival bells & incense. This rare musical event aims to inspire Peace, Brotherhood and Sisterhood in our world now starving for peace, love and liberation. Paul Bernardino, the event coordinator and music director, was active in the Gay Liberation Front in SF and Gay Sunshine publishing collective in SF; he served on the Lesbian/Gay Parade Committee in the late 1970s, and was in the original Act-Up in SF and in Queer Nation SF. PROGRAM: 11am: Easter Sunday Abbey Bells and Sanctus bells with incense. Excerpts chanted from the Holy Week Liturgy. 1pm: Excerpts from Easter Sunday Mass; World Peace Processional with bells. 3pm: Intermission & social. 3:15pm: Excerpts from Easter Solemn Vespers, Abbey bells. 4pm: Excerpts from Easter Solemn Mass repeated for those arriving late, Abbey bells, Peace Processional, Te Deum, Misc. Chants & Hymns to the Blessed Virgin Mary. 5pm: End with Solemn Salve Regina & Abbey Bells. Recessional for World Peace & Brotherly Love. Free! All welcome! Golden Gate Park, Kennedy Drive, One and a half Blocks West of Stony St. In front of the glass Conservatory of Flowers, the historic white/glass domed greenhouse, inside Romanesque archway on the Green. Bring your picnic or sack lunch and meet others who love the glorious Old Latin Rite & Gregorian Chant. Anyone arriving in Medieval or Renaissance Easter bonnet drag gets a special kiss from the Easter Bunny.

Meditation for World Peace @ Saraha Buddhist Center

Sunday: "Buddhist Meditation and Prayers for World Peace" with Kadam Lucy James and senior students. Start the week off right by cultivating a more peaceful, happy mind. Short inspirational talk, guided meditation, and discussion with snack. Saraha Buddhist Center is a Mahayana Buddhist group with a temple in the Mission. Meditation at 10 am. \$5. Saraha Buddhist Temple, 3324 17th St. Info: 415-503-1187; www.meditationinsanfrancisco.org

Easter Sunday @ MCC-SF

Don your Easter bonnet and join Rev. Dr. G. Penny Nixon, Rev. Karen Foster and friends as MCC San Francisco celebrates "Resurrection: Sacred Defiance." Easter Celebration at 11am. Communion at 9am, 11am, & 7pm. Music line-up: "God Has Set This Table" (9am & 11am only), a Mass Setting with words & music by Eric Cole; arranged by Bruce Purdy; commissioned for Easter, 2005 by MCC San Francisco. Debut performance by the MCC SF Choir & Congregation under the direction of Wendell Frey and Stephanie Smith. "I Will Sing With The Spirit" (9am & 11am only), a Choral Anthem, words & music by John Rutter. "Raised in the Spirit" (7pm only), a Choral Anthem, words & music by Bruce Purdy, commissioned for Easter, 2005 by MCC-SF; debut performance by the MCC San Francisco Choir. "I Ain't Afraid" (7pm only), a Choral Anthem, words & music by Holly Neary; arranged by Steven Willoy. MCC-SF serves an open communion: "You do not need to be a member of the MCC community, any synagogue, mosque or sangha to share in God's gifts from God's table." 150 Eureka St. Info: 863-4434; www.mccsf.org

AIRspace @ Jon Sims Center

AIRspace Informal Showing featuring Voices of Rhythm, RAWdance, and Kathryn Matzen. \$10-\$15. Mar. 27 at 6pm. Jon Sims Center for the Arts (JSC), 1519 Mission. Tel: 415-554-0402 ext. 2 #; www.jonsimsctr.org

Mon 28

Betsy Salkind @ Berkeley Rep School of Theater

Staged Reading: *The Gray Badge of Courage* vs. *Eli Lilly* by Betsy Salkind. Discussion to follow, moderated by Gary Graves. Depression and the makers of Prozac battle for custody of Lucy Everywoman in the court of Judge Mental. Readers including Bridget Schwartz and Nick Leonard. This reading is part of an ongoing program of staged readings of scripts developed in connection with the Berkeley Rep School of Theater Playwriting Program under the direction of Gary Graves. Admission is free. Mon., Mar. 28, 7pm, at Berkeley Rep School of Theater, in the Blue Room, 2025 Addison, Downtown Berkeley.

Tue 29

Viva Variety 46 @ ODC Theatre

'Make It So' Productions presents the 46th variation of Viva Variety on Tue., Mar. 29, hosted by Steve Murray. This show is a benefit for Thrive SF, providing assistance and emotional support to people in need. The talented performers for Viva Variety 46 include: **Jim Short**, comedy (2004 champion at the 29th Annual San Francisco International Open Comedy Competition); **Julia Jackson**, comedy (returning after her first smash Viva Variety appearance); **Tim Hockenberry**, music (talented singer/songwriter; think Ray Charles meets Tom Waits); **Christopher Love**, aerial dancer (our very first aerial dance - hot!); **Project Pimento**, music (a five-piece band with a repertoire of toe-tapping lounge favorites from the 40s, 50s, and 60s... all with a space-age twist); **Big Bones Blues**, purveyors of the blues (keeping the Great American Songbook alive); **Betsy Salkind**, comedy (the squirrel lady returns); **Michael Sousa**, theatre (one-man Lenny Bruce show); and **Miss Coco Peru**, theatre (Winner of the 2004 GLAAD Award for Best Los Angeles Theatre!). \$20 (\$12 seniors/students/physically challenged). 8pm. ODC Theatre at 5153 17th Street @ Shotwell. Parking available at the UCSF lot adjacent to theatre (\$1.25). Wheelchair accessible. Tix: ODC Box Office, 415-863-9834; www.vivavariety.org; www.odc-dance.org

Brian Teare @ USF Lone Mountain Campus

Award-winning poet Brian Teare reads from his first book, *The Room Where I Was Born*, at the University of San Francisco (USF), presented by the USF Master of Fine Arts Writing Program. His set of poems is about coming of age sexually under the control of flawed adults. Teare, from Oakland, won the 2003 Brittingham Prize in Poetry and the 2003 Publishing Triangle Award for Gay Male Poetry. He is a former Stegner fellow and National Endowment for the Arts fellow. Free. Open to all. Tue., Mar. 29 at 7:30pm. USF Lone Mountain Campus, 2800 Turk Blvd., Rm. 141. Parking passes \$6 at visitor's entrance. Info: 415-422-6066; www.usfca.edu

Wed 30

Spencer Day @ Bruno's

Band leader/singer Spencer Day plays Bruno's with a full band including the smoking "Shotgun Wedding" horn players along with special surprise guests. The Show is at 9pm on March 30th. Bruno's offers fine dining, cocktails, wines and the best live lounge music in San Francisco. \$10 cover. Doors open 8:30pm; show at 9pm. 2389 Mission St. (at 20th St.). Res: 415-648-7701; www.brunoslive.com

Thu 31

Ali Liebegott @ Modern Times Bookstore

Ali Liebegott reads from *The Beautifully Worthless* (Suspect Thoughts Press), a novel about a runaway waitress and her Dalmatian, who leave Brooklyn to find hope in Camus, Idaho. Exquisite poetry and hilarious/heartbreaking letters to the ex offer a postmodern odyssey through a landscape filled with ex-girlfriends, cute boys, a mysterious cave, mental institutions, sports radio, warm six-packs, murder sites, Dalry Queens and pineapple-upside-down cakes with family in Las Vegas. Free. 7:30pm. 888 Valencia St. Info: 415-282-9246; www.mtbs.com

Beautiful Child

@ Theatre Rhinoceros

Preview: Theatre Rhinoceros, America's oldest professional queer theater, continues its 27th Season with the West Coast premiere of Nicky Silver's controversial black comedy *Beautiful Child*. Directed by John Dixon. How do you love someone who falls outside our moral code? \$15 previews & Wed.; \$20 Thu., Sun. Mats & Sun. Eves; \$25 Fri.; \$28 Sat. 8pm Wed.-Sat.; 7pm Sun. eves; 3pm Sun. Mats (Apr. 10, 17 & 24). Downstairs Theater, The Rhino.

Gay Comedy

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Victory for Cody

El Rey Theater packed for Mr. LA Leather

by Mister Marcus

Nine men from bar feeder contests in the Los Angeles basin vied for the coveted Mr. Los Angeles Leather 2005 title at the El Rey Theater last Saturday night, March 19th. When the commercials, musical acts and the judging segments were over, Cody Haugland (Mr. Gauntlet II Leather) was named the winner of the title. He now advances to compete at IML 2005 next May. A delightful 32 year old Virgo, Cody is a standout on the IML 2005 roster already.

The first runner-up was Larry Golubski (Mr. Long Beach Leather) and the 2nd runner-up was Richard Denton (Mr. Los Angeles Leather Bear). His fellow contestants gave Mr. Oilcan Harry's Leather Lou Romano the Brotherhood Award.

The El Rey Theater was a sea of leather as the contestants went through the scored segments of the competition. Former Mr. Los Angeles Leather, the handsome Jeff Wacha, wasted no time pacing the interlude; he pulled it off without a hint of nervousness, and his wonderful sense of humor, great ad-libbing, and good looks made for a delightful presentation.

The Los Angeles Sisters of Perpetual of Indulgence had a big hand in the onstage humor, including a sock-it-to-'em Corps de Ballet segment that rocked the house. A dynamic young vocalist from Vancouver, Canada named Scott proved a sexy warbler with a great voice, a dynamic smile and a seductive demeanor. The only thing this lad needed was a group of back-up dancers to enhance his sizzling presentation. He'll be appearing at Vancouver Gay Pride later this year, so if you're in the vicinity check him out.

The Los Angeles Leather Coalition went all out to make sure the delegates to the weekend were satisfied. Shuttle buses were provided to transport everyone to the bars and the venues of action. The Honors Dinner and the Joseph Bean speech were highlights of the banquet and presentations to the honorees. There were several dance parties, and sexy men strutted around the lobby and vendor



Meet the winners in LA, from left: 2nd runner-up Richard Denton; Mr. LA Leather Cody Haugland; and 1st runner-up Larry Golubski. They competed at the El Rey Theater in Los Angeles on Saturday, March 19.

area with spiffy leather, uniforms and lots of hugging, kissing, groping and handholding were in evidence, a fitting finale for a wonderful weekend in the City of the Angels. The LALC is a dynamic entity that serves its leather community magnificently. Plans are already underway for next year's competition.

Marc Wattrell, the outgoing Mr. Los Angeles Leather, delivered a 11 1/2 minute step-aside speech that thanked the LALC, sponsors, supporters and members of the IML Class of 2004 who were there. Titleholders who will be competing at IML 2005 were present as well.

Judges Marc Wattrell, Alexei Romanoff, Jeff Burnam, Jason Hendrix, Fay Foltz and Gene Mar admit their task was not an easy one. Their choice for the title was greeted with whoops and hollers, and Mr. Los Angeles Leather 2005 looks like he's headed for a wonderful year with big expectations from his hometown leather community.

The street fair on Sunday in the Silverlake area was a sunny pastiche of leather, latex and skin — lots of skin. The fabled Nina Hagen was the headliner and the other entertainers were Debby Holiday, the Gay Gays, SouR, The Drills and Kiyoshi Graves. Ven-

dors, food, liquid refreshments and lots of hugging, kissing, groping and handholding were in evidence, a fitting finale for a wonderful weekend in the City of the Angels. The LALC is a dynamic entity that serves its leather community magnificently. Plans are already underway for next year's competition.

It's Rusty in Washington

While all this was going on, Leather Pride Week was in progress in Seattle, Washington, with the Mr. and Ms. Washington State Leather contest one of the many highlights on Saturday night. Rick Graves and Rusty Jones competed for the male title, and Shelley Denton and Celeste Firetender competed for the female title.

There was unanimous agreement among the judges — Judy Tallwing-McCarthy, Rhonda Vandermeyer, Victoria Christensen, Mark Jurenka, Claude McKenzie and Earl Coffman — that it was a very tough competition. When all the scores were added up, Rusty Jones was named Mr. Washington State Leather and Shelley Denton was named Ms. Washington State Leather. Mr. Jones will compete at IML in 2006.

Frank Nowicki emceed the event with his usual aplomb and

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, March 24-28

They'll be living it up in Berlin with the big Mr. German Leather 2005 weekend. Philippe Tanzer will step aside and IML Jason Hendrix will be there!

Ms. World Leather Pandora wants you to celebrate "Leather Day of Caring" worldwide by having events that celebrate the donation of human organs. For more information, surf to: www.msworldleather2004.com/LDOC.

Friday, March 25

Leather & Uniform night at Renegades in San Jose from 2100 to 0100 entitled "Good Friday Gone Bad" with demos, bootblacks, Jell-O shots. For more info email to: sarmento@earthlink.net.

Saturday, March 26

Voting for the Golden Dildeaux Awards begins today until April 10. Only \$1.00 per ballot. Vote early and vote often. To benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund.

The 15 Association monthly play party at the

usual location. \$15 donation. Guest must accompany you. For info, call 672-0452.

SF Leather Contingent Town Meeting at The Center (1800 Market St.) at 1400 in Room 1300. Nominate your choice for male and female grand marshals. For info call 722-3128.

Thursday, March 31

Round 8 of the Bare Chest Calendar for 2006 is tonight at the Powerhouse around 2200. Get out there and flaunt it for charity!

Weekend, April 1-3

Mr. Sin City Leather Boy and Bootblack in Las Vegas at the "Smokeout 2005" For info: www.hometown.aol.com/lasvegassmokeout/index.htm.

Weekend, April 8-10

Newest kid on the circuit: Mr. Midwest Leather Contest in Dubuque, Iowa at the One Flite Up bar. IML 2003 John Pental will fly in from London to MC. For more info, click on: www.onefliteup.org.

PORN

Towards a higher end

Where's the classy all-black gay porn?

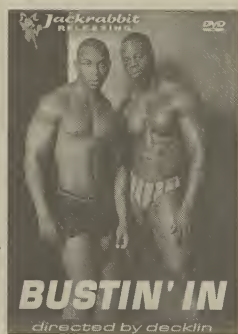
by John F. Karr

Watching some French-made porn recently, I remarked to myself on the presence among the cast of an African-American. Whoops, I thought, ever alert to PC-ness—that's an African-Frenchman. And since that made me roll my eyes, I'm just going to skip over the continental divide and call black men just that.

It was the array of beautiful black men I saw in the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre that made me think, why don't I see men like this in gay porn? True, a sole, fine black man will appear in the occasional film from the five major porn firms based in San Francisco: Titan, Colt, Falcon, Raging Stallion and Hot House. But I must stress the clarifier: occasional. The standard brand of American racism is clearly mirrored in gay porn. Gay men's taste in performers is otherwise quite universal.

There are big-budget companies providing an endless succession of Germans, Czechs, Italians, Greeks and, oh my lord, every branch and hue of Hispanic. They not only dominate cast lists these days, but are indeed so popular that a front-runner company like Raging Stallion can market not as niche product but as mainstream a movie like their new *Passport to Paradise*, with an all-Latin cast.

But black men? They're seen only in niche-marketed product, and are subject to severe ghettoization, as in East Harlem's *Thug Dreamin'* in the Hood, and Blatinio Connection's *Theif* (sic) in the Night. If the amusing misspelling were intentional, it would have been *Theif*. "Theif" is emblazoned on the box cover of both the movie and its sequel, making them partners in illiteracy to the fact that there isn't a publicist in the entire porn industry who knows when "its" wants an apostrophe and when it doesn't.



It's indicative that Studio 2000's recent *Ghetto* didn't have a single black cast member, despite its title and a plot about rival gangs. Latins, yes; blacks, no. True, you can get lower end, homeboy Latinos—like Latino Fan Club's *Latin Thugz* or *Dawgz on the D.L.* But these are outnumbered by the representation of upscale Latin men in

more expensively produced product that's marketed to a mainstream audience. Your high-end (is my tongue in cheek?) black man is a gay porn rarity. Now, why do I call for a better class of blacks—for affirmative action, as it were, in porn? I'm not sexually stimulated by an underclass, for one thing. And I just don't care to validate the stereotypes of a caste system in which blacks are always gangbangers and thugz. It's not black viewers, but white men who perpetuate this view.

Bustin' loose

So I wanted to check out Jackrabbit Releasing's *Bustin' In*, which was among five titles recently nominated for a GayVN Award as Best Ethnic Video. Of the five, three were Latino, one was mixed, only *Bustin' In* was all-black, and only one, the winning *Revolucion Sexual*, could escape the secondary categorization of Amateur Video.

I wish I could have liked *Bustin' In* more. It lies a little below the halfway mark between amateur video and mainstream. It's at the same spot in the sort of men it casts. Neither porn pros nor clumsy neophytes, neither college graduates nor gang members, these inner-city blacks have some rough-edged funk about them, in both grammar and grooming.

Only Ty Thomas, with his sexy two-strand twists, and sweet little cupcake buns that engulf his partner's battering ram to the pubis when he sits on it, has a last name. There's Anaconda, appropriately named; sleekly-shaved Wood, who sucks cock so badly it looks like he's trying to whistle that thing down, but who rides a Reverse Cowboy of palpable depth and brutal bouncing; and the body-builder you see on the box cover, Juice, a great cocksucker whose pillowing lips are deliciously obscene in the act. There's fine Rudy, with major bling in his ear and major blam between his legs, in two scenes; Ginuwine, an otherwise attractive victim of hip-hop spelling; and the man the credits call Sexycane, which is clearly not meant to be pronounced Sex-sigh-one, and whose pectoral tat gets it correct: Sexycane. "Wow!" Panther exclaims at the sight of Sexycane's huge, uncut dick, which he deep throats with relish.

Sadly, the only distinguishing feature of *Bustin' In* is that it's all black. Its sets are strictly low-rent; the set-ups are clichés (the massage, the gym); the scripted dialogue stupid but thankfully terse. Some very bad music obliges by getting quickly out of the way at the top of each scene, yielding to natural sounds during sex. And while the sex occasionally picks up steam, it isn't very enticingly filmed. As in most porn, the niceties are foregone. There's little foreplay (the guys just haul it out and blow it), and the transition into fucking is entirely and abruptly skipped. The guys go about their assigned duties with vigor, but there's a basic lack of partnering. Finally, all the orgasms are attained through solo jack-off. www.jackrabbitreleasing.com

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Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

the weekend culminated with the Emerald Awards and much celebrating.

IML Den Daddy steps down

Every man who has competed for the International Mr. Leather title since 1982 happily and gratefully remembers Walter Klingler, the man who has held the Den Daddy position since 1982. With his trusty staff of volunteers and helpers, he has witness several major and minor disasters that befell contestants, consoled many, enhanced the horizons of many and was indeed a "daddy" for all of them. Through it all, the lost luggage, emergency alterations, medications needed, trauma with the lovers, extreme nervousness, jitters and so on the trauma associated with the IML competition, Walter was there to help and console. Getting a hefty group of men through the competition segments is no easy task, but Walter's fortitude and caring made it easi-

er for all contestants who had to be here and there, hurry up and wait, get dressed and/or undressed—and all with a calm demeanor that belied the inner stress he himself was experiencing.

Last week, Walter stepped down as the Den Daddy. His decision was not an easy one, but health problems were enhanced by the stress associated with the Den Daddy job. So Walter gracefully bowed out, and his successor for IML 2005 and probably beyond will be Joey, who has been on the Den Daddy staff since 1979, the year IML came into being.

Joey has served in many capacities on the IML volunteer staff, so he knows what is expected of him: to "be there" for the contestants. After all, no one is a star of IML except the contestants.

With many thanks and gratitude for his friendship, for the many hours we spent together over these many years, I say "thank you, Walter, for a great job and a great and distinguished service to your leather charges. You do leather proud!"

There are only a handful of

IML staffers left now from the "early days." Dubbing themselves the "Old Girls Network" (O.G.N.), IML volunteers who have served the IML mission for decades are dwindling with each passing year, and you can count the remaining "vets" on one hand. It was a pleasure and an honor serving with Daddy Walter Klingler.

Bonnets at the Edge; Baskets at Daddy's

It's Easter weekend and The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence once again will be cavorting on the green at Dolores Park on Easter Sunday. There will be an Easter Bonnet contest at the Edge from 1600 to 1730, and Tony Koester will be hosting an Easter Basket Auction at Daddy's Bar from 1600 to 2000, with a beer/soda bust for \$7 with entertainment, and fun galore, all to benefit the Stop AIDS Project.

Have fun romping with your favorite leather bunny, your brightest eggs and your trusted friends. Beware of people "bearing false witness!" See you all next week! ▼

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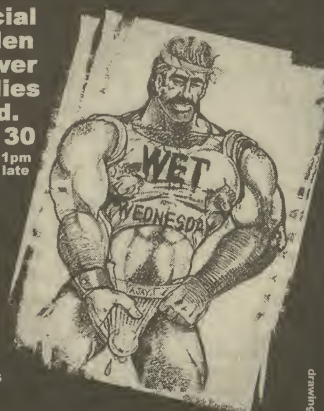
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Seen at the GLAAD Media Awards Table Captain Party at the Westin St. Francis: event co-chair John Marez, outgoing GLAAD executive director Joan Garry, Donna Sachet, and 3rd event co-chair Roseanne Strano.

Community dynamos serve it up

Imperials, movers and shakers reap the social whirlwind

by Donna Sachet

If the 300+ people gathered at the GLAAD Media Awards Table Captain Party at Alexandra's Palace at the Westin St. Francis last week is any indication, this year's GLAAD Media Awards on June 11 will be a smashing success.

Joan Garry, outgoing executive director, was in town to promote the upcoming event, to be co-chaired by Roseanne Strano, John Marez, and myself. Over 25 table hosts committed to the event that night in a room awash with red lighting and gold fabric, suggestive of this year's *Phantom of the Opera* theme, as the guests dined on plentiful hors d'oeuvres from area restaurants and downed generous Absolut cocktails. With a silent auction committee led by James Healy and Jack Ryder, luscious décor coordinated by Duncan Reyes, and additional table host parties scheduled by Mario Diaz and Michael Anichini, this June party is a must! Already confirmed to attend and receive an award is Jennifer Beales of *The L Word*.

Later in the week, we were pleased to receive a last-minute invitation from Jeff Anderson and Jeff Soukup to dine at a private

home in the Castro with special guest Mayor Gavin Newsom. Introduced by the dynamic District Attorney Kamala Harris, Newsom certainly confirmed his place in the hearts of the assembled guests, who included Leslie Katz, Chris Carnes, and Julian Chang, as he graciously succumbed to all photography and a few choice questions. What a hero!

As loyal readers of this column will know, we spent last weekend at the San Jose Imperial Coronation, where Emperor Kevin Roche stepped aside and Idalis Houston was crowned Empress of the Impe-

rial Royal Lion Monarchy. The Cirque de San Jose theme brought out a rich variety of costumes, not the least of which were those of the reigning Emperor and Empress of San Francisco, much to the shock of some veteran court members and the delight of others. Suffice it to say, Empress Sable Clown would have been proud! Emperor Brian Benamati and I were delighted to reunite with so many of our old friends, especially Emperor Mikey of Alaska, Empress Truckstop Tracy of LA, Lucy Manhattan, Empreses Lucy Fernandez and Jackie Best (formerly of San Jose, now in Reno) and Emperors Diamond John, Frankie Fernan-

dez, Genero, and Beej Martinez, all of San Jose. After the completion of a remarkably short coronation, we joined Empress Sheba! for a rambunctious night of dancing back in the city at Mezzanine and Ivan Cano's monthly club, Bump. Further confirmation that we do live in a city that never sleeps!

Last Wednesday's Spurs 'n' Fur Show at The Edge was our dose of St. Patrick's Day. Hostess Deanna Dawn gathered together an impressive list of performers, including Miss Gay SF Galilea, Ed Morgan, Eric Hanson, Trout, and Tanya Hullana, to usher in the Irish celebration while raising money for Under One Roof. Their new executive director, Mike Marshall, was in attendance, and saw first-hand what grass-roots support from a handful of individuals can do for his organization. This Irish green event made monetary green for Under One Roof!

Think pink

The presentation of the Vie En Rose Awards at the Community Center last Friday was both moving and entertaining. Years ago, when the Center was just a dream, Camille Maran committed to establishing an artistic skylight to honor those in our LGBT community who have suffered psychiatric abuse and oppression because of their sexual orientation and gender variance. It stands today in the Victorian section of the Center, and these annual awards recognize individuals and groups who support Camille's work. With her able co-host James Holloway, she presented awards to the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Mitch Thompson, Edgardo Menvielle, Catherine Tuerk, James de Jesus, Karl Bryant, Sylvia Guerrero, and Assemblyman Mark Leno. The Ceremonial Room of the Center was draped with pink fabric, lit with pink lights, and sprinkled with pink roses, creating a beautiful setting for music by Jimi Bohannon and stirring comments from the awardees.

Not one to allow an opportunity to pass, we took advantage of



A pink moment during the Vie En Rose Awards at the Community Center: Assemblyman Mark Leno, co-hosts James Holloway and Camille Maran.

next page ►

ARTS

Easter cocktails

by Sweet Lips

Easter is upon us, and for all of you who celebrate resurrections, I hope you have a great time with the Sisters in Dolores Park! Be sure to wear your fancy Easter Bonnet and enter the contest, which is always fabulous, with elaborate ornamentation on the bonnets. In the old days, Hat Parties among the nelly crowd were all the rage at Easter time. Some things never change.

A tip of the old Easter bonnet goes to that great morning bartender in the Castro, Mr. Marlow, who walks the plank from 6 a.m. till 12 Noon on Mondays, Saturdays and Sundays at the Mix Bar at 18th & Castro. Thank you for opening so very early; many of the regulars plan their day around this. The owners have made great changes in the bar, so stop by and check it out.

Be sure to mark Sunday, April 3, on your calendar to help celebrate the 70th birthday of the fab-



ulous Robbie aka "Helen Trent" from 1-4 p.m. at Marlena's Bar at 488 Hayes St. Entertainment is to be provided by none other than the talented Empress José. It's a party not to be missed!

Sorry to hear that Emperor Simeon of Marlena's Bar has had to go back home to care for his ailing father. He will be missed by many, especially Marlena.

It's great to learn that the Mint Bar is still going strong. I haven't been there in years, but then my best karaoke singing days are still ahead of me!

The handsome Tim of the Cinch Saloon will join the group down Mexico way this month. Jim Manges seems to be on the Puerto Vallarta hospitality committee!

Well, we have lost another wonderful person, Lee "Greta" Grass, who passed away on March 11. She made many people happy, including Yours Truly, when we met at the Bridgeway Bar in Sausalito many years ago. Friends will certainly miss Greta. ▼

Splendor

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about Bud. He's at his father's old ranch, the only asset to have survived the crash. His sister Ginny is dead. Deanie and two girlfriends drive out to see him. She looks lovely, but he's a mess from tending cattle. Their meeting is poignant, as each is still drawn to the other. The ending is touching.

Kazan gets good work from the cast. Beatty, in his screen debut, is excellent. He looks sensational: tall, lean, muscled, and kissable. His Bud is genuinely conflicted, a decent youth caught in a world he doesn't understand and cannot control. His love for Deanie is palpable, and he believably portrays a young man who can't separate sex from affection. Wood, in an

Oscar-nominated performance, matches his passion — the two were reportedly lovers at this time. Her sexual hysteria is moving. Christie is magnificent — warm, manipulative, greedy, loving — and Hingle brings humanity to the unsympathetic Asa. Loden and Lampert are also fine. Sandy Dennis has a small part as one of Deanie's schoolmates, and Phyllis Diller appears briefly as Texas Guinan. The movie was a hit, and Inge's original screenplay won an Academy Award, his last triumph. The author of the successful Broadway plays *Come Back, Little Sheba*; *Bus Stop*; *Picnic* and *The Dark at the Top of the Stairs* unexpectedly found himself unable to please audiences or critics. Afflicted with alcoholism, convinced he could no longer write, Inge committed suicide. ▼

Lavender Tube

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Finally, in the midst of all the mayhem on the news and all the bad reality TV out there that just churns our stomach (how many bugs can you eat, really?), we just want to note how uplifting we find ABC's *Extreme Makeover Home Edition*. Each week we tune in, ad-

dicted to the joy that comes out of this show. Seeing lives made easier and better for people struggling with terrible hardships never fails to put us in a better place, too. So when you're feeling like there is nothing right with the world, tune in to *EMHE*. It will, as they say, make you laugh, make you cry, and also might just stir you to do something good for someone else. Stay tuned. ▼

On the Town

◀ previous page

the proximity of Martuni's to continue the evening. This delightful respite for cabaret singers and their admirers continues to pack in the crowds, this night accompanied by the richly talented Ben Prince. Don't miss these spirited Friday night sing-alongs, with Houston Allred at the piano. Among the crowd that night and suggestive of earlier days when this establishment was known as Lily's were Grand Duchess Davida and Princess Victoria Secret. We continued the musical journey across the street at Empress Cockatielia's inaugural show at Michael's Octavia Lounge. Despite a packed house of celebrants and a supportive audience, uncorrectable audio malfunctions called a very early end to the show. Let's

hope for a quick resolution before the festivities resume.

It's not too late to catch the rebroadcast of Comcast's *OutSpoken* on Channel 11, March 26 at 7 p.m. and March 27 at 8 p.m. You'll see wonderful film footage of the Imperial events; and Heklima in a backstage interview with members of Scissor Sisters. Hosts Tim Gaskin and Janine Shiota provide compelling television for the LGBT community.

Mark your calendar now for the Imperial Investiture of Emperor John-Richard and Empress Tiger Lily at the Swedish American Hall, 2174 Market St., on April 3 at 5 p.m. Meanwhile, celebrate this Easter Sunday with the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence in Dolores Park, and afterwards with Leather Daddy Tony Koester at Daddy's and Yours Truly at The Edge. Elaborate Easter bonnets are strongly suggested! ▼

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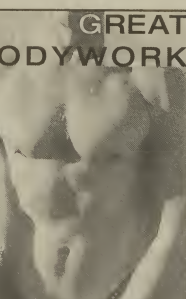


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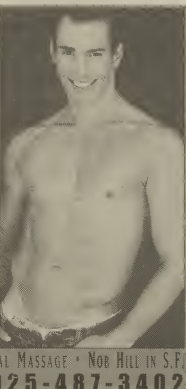


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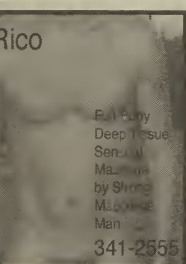
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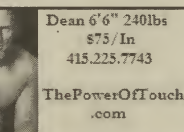
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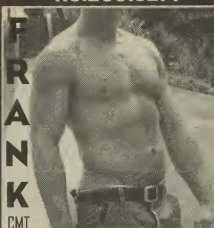
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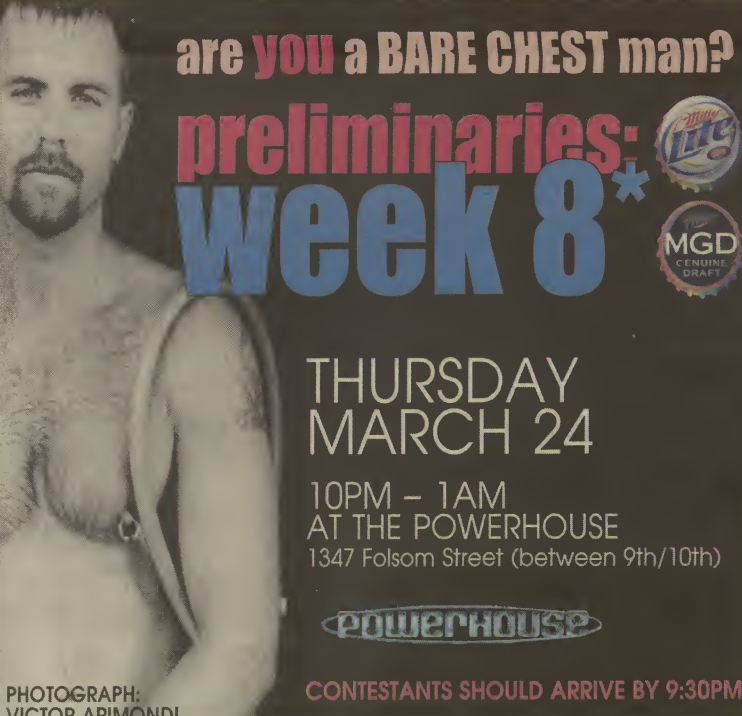
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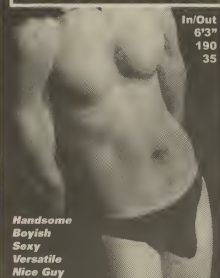
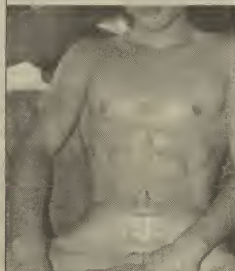
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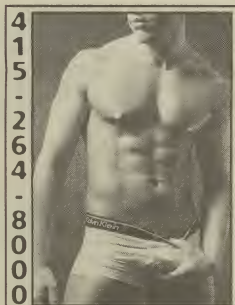
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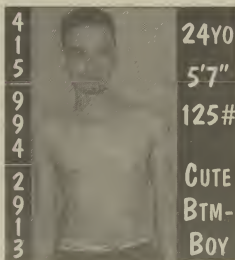
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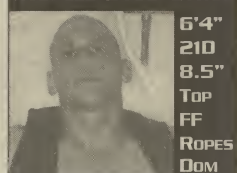
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No STD's, No Drugs, No Attitude!
\$120 + Cab. Out Only. 415-871-4228
LET'S HAVE SOME FUN! • SEAN •

HOT BLK COLLEGE BOY
21 5'11 145 Smooth
Ryan 415-713-7098

6'2"/160Lbs/Hung 7/Nice Guy/Hot
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HORNY 21 YO WM
HOT COLLEGE STUD
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SEXY MAN-BOY!
Smooth, Athletic Top
PICTURE AVAILABLE
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BOY FROM SPAIN
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SPANIARD 26YO 6'2" HANDSOME
WELL-ENDED MEDITERRANEAN LOOKS NATU
RALLY SMOOTH MASC & PASSIONATE

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6' 240#
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SF & Russian
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WWW.RICKST.COM
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Call Richard 24 hrs.
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My place, your place & hotel
Callers welcome!
Actual model pictured.

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VERY SEXY
MASC.
BI-LATIN
MALE
25Y.O.
5'10"
165LBS
MUSCULAR
VERY SMOOTH
IN/OUT:
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9" CUT ANGELO

Sexy Latin Top
Boy 18o# 9.5"
Very
Friendly
Horny
Tall
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muscular
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handsome
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MARCH 23 - 28

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JOE • IN/OUT \$150

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25 y.o. 9" Thick 6 Cut
FURNISH CATERMANS • 100% SMOK
In San Francisco
FROM MIAMI

NICK BENTON • COM

4'11" 180lbs • 44" C • 25" W
Smooth • Tan • Solid Face Body
Muscle • Waxed • 100% SMOK
Washing • Straightforward
And LOTS of FUN!
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BDSM FF • CBT ETC
5'8" • 150
Private Playroom
Beginners Welcome
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Intense • Experienced • Safe
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SHAKE YOUR BASKET... HUSTLERS-A-No-No
FRIDAY, MARCH 25
9 - MIDNIGHT
\$5
No-No Dancers • Dildo Toss • Shot Bar • Raffles
Egg Hunt
Benefits: SGBS Hustlers
powerhouse
1347 Folsom San Francisco, CA 415-552-8689 powerhouse-sf.com

Tired of seeing things in black and white? So are we!
Now you can have your ad in full sassy

COLOR, that's right, **COLOR!**

BAY AREA REPORTER

Contact David or Elsa for rates and info.
Phone: 415.861.5019
Email: BARadv@aol.com



Elsa Darling, Guess what? The 'Personals' section in the B.A.R. are now in color! Isn't that just the most!



Oh, David, that's fabulous. But, um, dear...why are you reading the personals in the B.A.R.???

PEOPLE



Strictly SEX

Record & Listen to personal ads
Free!
code: 1010

415-247-2000
510-814-6699
707-522-5001
916-489-9800
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Hot Local Guys!

Bay Area's hottest chatline

MrN

Men Meet Men Right Now!
Preview each guy before you decide to connect live!

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WHO'S WAITING FOR YOU?™

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San Jose
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Berkeley
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Pleasanton
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Palo Alto
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FREE TRIAL
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Calling All Single Men!

Join the nation's most exclusive matchmaking agency and meet quality, relationship minded men who want to meet you! Visit us online today. Free memberships to exceptional men ages 21-35.

gaymillionairesclub.com

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SPANK PARTY
2ND FRI. EACH MONTH
PRIVATE SESSIONS ALSO AVAILABLE
415.864.2766

**STRICTLY SEX!!**

Hook-up Discreetly. 18+.
Call 415-247-2000 or
510-814-6699. Ad #5102.

Good Head Sonoma County
Call Days 707-823-3895

Bare Assed Spanking.
Experienced, Safe
DaddyHoward 929 1185

MUSIC LOVER SEEKS SAME!

GWM, professional, 54, HIV-, brn hair & eyes, 5'11" av build, Loves the symphony, singing and Sunday New York Times. ISO fellow music aficionado in his 30's or 40's, HIV-, attractive, upbeat attitude & playful wit! San Jose or San Francisco Bay Areas preferred. Visit <http://gaymillionairesclub.com> client ad 2738 (FREE)

BAR TALK

1.900.226.7036 Only \$1.99 per minute to respond to ads!

Don't want to use the #900 line? Use BLOCK OF TIME™ You can purchase time on our system by calling 1-800-321-6845 and requesting a 10, 20, 30, or 60 minute Block of Time™ with discounts of up to 20%. The cost is \$1.99 per minute and you may use your Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express card. You will be able to respond, browse, and retrieve messages by using your Block of Time™ account from any touch-tone phone! Available only on touch-tone telephones. You must be at least 18 years old to call.

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Handsome & Healthy Pos Man Seeks Same
GWM 43 - 165lbs - nice body good looks seeking healthy HIV+ GWM/GLM - no smokers or heavy drinkers - pot ok. ☎ 71514

Seek Older Bear Or Slim Man
BM 46yo 185lbs 5'10" big tits, smooth ass, needs a hard tool and mouth. Love when you use muscle. 38 or older. ☎ 71506

Dark Skin Mexican Latin G-Looking
40 yrs. H-5:07 W157lb. versatile legal resident of SF. Slim, muscular body. Lite hair on body nice as/dick ISO GWM/GLM 30/45 yrs. 5:05/5:10 150/160 lbs. versatile. Size unimportant. No drugs, smoking, or heavy drinkers. ☎ 71502

Older Cigar Or Pipe Smokers
LM 6', 165lbs. dk br. I'm looking for a much older M who regularly smokes cigars or pipes & enjoys a lot of affection, deep kissing, & other oral pleasures. Not into gay lifestyle. ☎ 71497

50s German Looking To Meet Men
Blonde German looking to meet guys between 50-60. Disease free, sense of humor, friendship wanted - I'm just a simple Joe. ☎ 71503

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Horny Old Men
I'm looking for much older men over 60 who enjoy a lot of slow, sensual oral pleasure. I'm a 48yo WM, 6', 165lbs dark hair. Husky/heavysset, bearded, non-gym types a plus. ☎ 71515

Rim Service Wanted
WM, horny, mid-40's, hairy, shaved head, 6', 160, lean-athletic, needs my clean hairy asshole sucked, massaged and? All HIV+ Age/Race O.K. ☎ 71516

Bottom HIV+ ISO Hot Top Man
Shoulder length brown hair, 6'1", 179, ISO Br, B+ Top who can take control while we reach a level of pleasure and search for more. A buddy only/hot sex a must. ☎ 71509

Can Old Dogs Learn New Tricks?
Masculine WM life-long pussy eater seeking over 65 senior to train me to be your on-call oral pleasure provider. ☎ 71508

Kewl Blue Collar Top ISO Boy Pup
GWM 39 with an edge for sexual pleasures, and very good at it. ISO tall slim white boy that knows how to play hard. Think it's you? Reply! ☎ 71504

Caucasian Bottom For Asian Top
Mature talented white bottom wants to pleasure Asian top w/my muscular tan line butt! ☎ 71498

Endowed Black Man, 50, 5'9", 180
Needs oral servicing daytimes M-F from a mature, oral expert, either clean shaven or mustache only. No age limit, all races welcome. Direct phone required. ☎ 71501

Spank Your Butt
Hot, masculine top, 38, 5'11" 175#, seeks well built bottom with nice ass for over the knee spankings, role playing and plowing your ass ☎ 71496

FETISHES

PO2 Ass Freak
40, 5'8" 190 blk Freak rim ass long session while watching videos. Into toys, fisting and role play. Seeking weekend playmates. ☎ 71513

Rimmer Looking For Tops
Asian 40ish btm looking for tops 40-55 for nasty hot fun, early morning or afternoon. Needs to service a top man orally front & back, body worship, role play, and plowing my ass too. Herbs & aroma ok. Any race. ☎ 71510

Looking For Serious Nipple Workout Bucky
50yr old, stocky 220# serious nip pig w huge erect nips. Brn, brn, salt & pepper mustache. Into studs w huge nips, muscles & pointed cowboy boots! ISO dominant, muscular nip workout buddy for serious nip workout sessions! Smoker a + ☎ 71511

Oral Sex Coach For Your Ladies
They learn watching me deep-throat our meat/lick sweat off balls/eat ass/gulp piss; your moans cue action for them! ☎ 71507

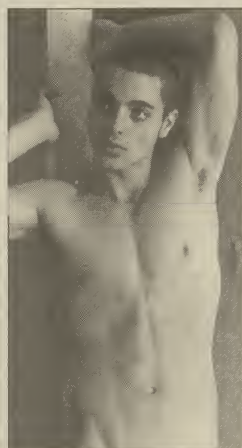
Married Straight Into Whipping
Do you have dungeon and desire to punish bad boys? I need a good whipping. I have whips for you to use on my bare back, ass, legs. ☎ 71505

Masc 50 Role Play Showing Off
5'10" 170lbs into getting serviced by talented mouth from older in shape suit and tie ☎ 71500

Bi - Threesome Ravish - 69 More
Me Mr. xx. Age 57 - ISO all bi - couples (21 - 45) for bi - threesome. 69 all day. French/Greek +++ Drag - Queens too - +++ No Drugs. Only "bi" ☎ 71499

PARTING GLANCES

Fetish Ball - 3/12 - James
It was your birthday. Let's finish what we started! - Marc ☎ 71512



BAR TALK

PERSONALS ARE FREE!

CATEGORY

- Parting Glances ☐
Seeking Relationship ☐
Seeking Adventure ☐
Lesbian ☐
Fetishes ☐
Couples ☐
Others ☐

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____
Address _____ Evening Telephone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. **One ad per customer per week.**

PEOPLE

XXX WEB

WANTED!

BAY AREA MEN

- Live Talk
- Meet Ads
- Voice Mail

24 Hours

\$2.00

976-7500

Free

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ADULT JOBS OFFERED

FALCON STUDIOS

READY TO SHOW YOUR STUFF?

FALCON STUDIOS,

The premiere gay adult video company, is holding an open casting call on March 25, 2005, 3-6PM. Must be 18yo with proof of ID. For more info, call 321-6629.

E12

OLDER MEN WANTED

4 XXX videos and modeling. Only 55+ men. Good pay call mark 626-473-2765 or modelsf@older4me.com

E14

FACTORY VIDEO

You - Hot, 18-35, in shape. Like sex & showing off+ Making \$\$\$. Call now for an interview. Also looking for bears. Call us at 415-777-9070.

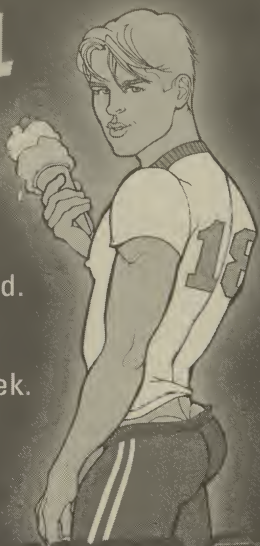
www.factoryvideos.com

E13

BAY AREA REPORTER

REAL

All ads have photos and are pre-screened. Live help available 7 days a week.



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Over 300,000 members and five languages worldwide.



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LOCAL

At least 5,500 men online at all times!



now

Available in 58 cities. Find men wherever you are!



BAY AREA REPORTER

PERSONALS ORDER FORM

Indicate Type Style Here ▼

X-BOLD Stops Here ▼

BOLD Stops Here ▼

CAPS Stop Here ▼

Regular Stops Here ▼

DEADLINE

NOON on MONDAY.

Payment must accompany ad. No ads taken over the telephone. If you have a question, call 415.861.5019. Display advertising rates available upon request.

RATES

First line, Regular 6.00

All subsequent lines 4.00

CAPS double price

BOLD double price

X-BOLD triple price

PAYMENT

- ☐ Cash
- ☐ Personal Check
- ☐ Money Order
- ☐ Visa
- ☐ MasterCard

Minimum \$10 charge on Visa and MasterCard.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Card Number

3-Digit Security Code Expiration Date

Signature

Name

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name

Telephone

Address

City

State

Zip

Number of Issues

Classification

Amount Enclosed

MAIL WITH PAYMENT TO:
BAY AREA REPORTER
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

OR FAX TO:
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TELEVISION NETWORK

Television created by the Gay Community for the Gay Community

WE INVITE SAN FRANCISCO TO

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GAY NEWS

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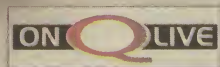
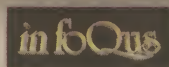
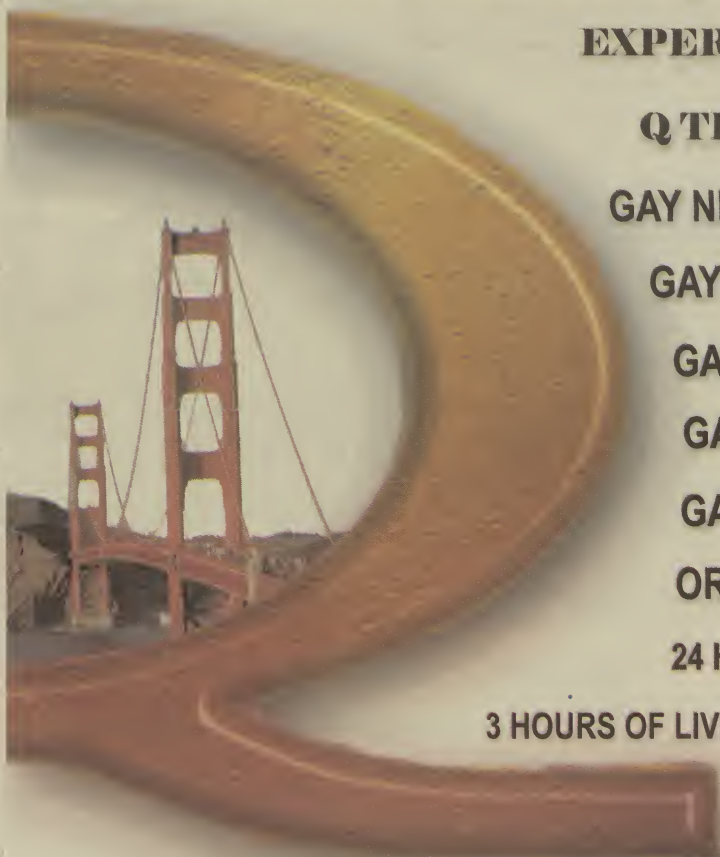
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24 HOURS A DAY 7 DAYS A WEEK

3 HOURS OF LIVE INTERACTIVE PROGRAMMING DAILY



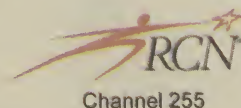
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